1. Postwar America
   1. returning military men had problems finding jobs and housing
   2. war increased income because there were few consumer goods to buy but big industry
   3. GI Bill-- Help for Veterans
      1. **Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944** (also known as GI Bill of Rights) helped veterans transition back to peacetime
      2. money for education, loans for homes, farms and businesses
   4. Baby Boom
      1. 50 million babies b/w 1945 and 1960
      2. represented confidence of postwar era
      3. women’s attention focused on raising children and homemaking
      4. trend of more women in workforce continued though
   5. Suburban Growth
      1. **William J. Levitt** produced low-priced family suburbias
      2. low interest rates which were govt insured and tax deductible made the move very affordable
      3. most middle class Americans became suburbanites
      4. cities became increasingly poor and racially divided
   6. rise of the sunbelt
      1. sunbelt- states from Florida to California
      2. people moved for the warmer climate, lower taxes and economic opportunities
2. Postwar Politics
   1. Truman attempted to continue in Roosevelt’s tradition, but was opposed by conservatives
   2. Economic Program and Civil Rights
      1. **Employment Act of 1946**
         1. wanted national health insurance, increase in minimum wage and govt guarantee of full employment
         2. watered down into the **Employment Act of 1946**
         3. created the **Council of Economic Advisers**
      2. Inflation and Strikes
         1. consumer demand compensated for govt spending, which led to inflation
         2. Truman wanted Congress to continue wartime price controls to prevent inflation
         3. but Congress relaxed the controls of the Office of Price Administration so inflation increased 25 percent
         4. workers went on strike b/c they wanted wages to catch up with prices but Truman put them down
      3. Civil rights
         1. first to use presidential powers to challenge racial discrimination
         2. established Committee on Civil Rights in 1946
         3. strengthened civil rights division of the Justice Department
         4. ordered the end of racial discrimination in all govt departments
         5. **Fair Employment Practices Commission**- would have prevented employers from discriminating against blacks, but Southern Democrats blocked the legislation
         6. **Shelley v. Kraemer** ruled that courts could not be used to enforce private “covenants” meant to bar blacks from residential neighborhoods
      4. labor
         1. men returned from war and pushed the minorities out from industry
         2. women and other minorities turned to the service industry instead
      5. Republican Control of the 80th Congress
         1. ppl voted conservative
         2. conservatives wanted to have tax-cuts for wealthy Americans, but Truman vetoed
         3. **22nd Amendment** limited a president to a maximum of two full terms in office
         4. **Taft-Hartley Act** was vetoed but overridden by Congress--
            1. checked union power
            2. outlawed **closed shop**- contract requiring workers to join union before being hired
            3. allowed states to pass “right to work” laws which outlawed **union shop**- contract requiring workers to join union after being hired
            4. outlawed **secondary boycotts**- practice of several unions giving support to striking union by joining boycott of company’s products
            5. gave president power to invoke 80 day cooling-off period before strike
            6. impact on unions:

damaged weaker unions in lightly organized industries

made organizing workers who had never been union members at all more difficult

* + 1. Election of 1948
       1. Democratic party divided
          1. Southern conservatives hated the civil rights bill
          2. Progressive Party proposed Wallace as candidate b/c they felt Truman was inefficient
       2. Truman still won though
    2. The **Fair Deal**
       1. Truman wanted national health care insurance, federal aid to education, civil rights legislation, funds for public housing and new farm program
          1. civil rights would have made lynching federal crime, abolished poll tax and created **Fair Employment Practices Commission**
       2. most of proposed reforms blocked by Conservatives, except increase in minimum wage and inclusion of more workers under Social Security
       3. defeated because:
          1. political conflicts with Congress
          2. foreign policy concerns of Cold War
       4. conservatives pushed

1. The **Second Red Scare**
   1. tendency to see Communist conspiracies behind European and Asian civil wars led to belief that there communists in all American institutions
   2. Security and Civil Rights
      1. **Loyalty Review Board**- created to investigate background of employees and forced many govt employees to lose their jobs
      2. **McCarran Internal Security Act (1950)**- passed over Truman’s veto
         1. unlawful to support totalitarian government
         2. restricted employment and travel of Communist organization members
         3. created detention camps for subversives
      3. **Un-American Activities Committee**
         1. originally established to find Nazis, but now found Communists
         2. Boy Scouts, Hollywood people, and others were called to testify
         3. those who did not were tried for contempt and/or blacklisted
         4. opposed by American Civil Liberties Union, who argued that the First Amendment protected their free expression
   3. Espionage Cases
      1. global Communist conspiracy theory supported by actual cases of Communist espionage in GB, Canada and US
      2. **Hiss case**
         1. **Whittaker Chambers**, professed Communist, testified against **Alger Hiss**, prominent official
         2. denied accusations, but convicted of perjury and sent to prison
         3. contributed to belief that highest levels of govt were swamped with Communist spies
      3. **Rosenberg case**
         1. Americans convinced that spies helped Soviets develop atomic bomb
         2. **Klaus Fuchs**, British scientist who worked on the Manhattan Project, admitted to giving atomic bomb secrets to the Russians
         3. **Rosenbergs** found guilty of treason and executed for the crime
   4. The Rise of **Joseph McCarthy**
      1. used concern over communism in reelection campaign
      2. McCarthy’s tactics
         1. discredited Truman administration and kept media focus on himself using unsupported accusations about Communists
         2. Republicans liked him b/c he was attacking Democrats
         3. became very powerful
      3. Army-McCarthy hearings
         1. seen as bully by viewers on television
         2. “witchhunt” for Communists was done
2. Eisenhower Takes Command
   1. The Election of 1952
      1. voters wanted end to Korean War and political scandals
      2. conservative Republicans balanced the ticket by persuading Eisenhower to choose Richard Nixon
      3. Democrats nominated Adlai Stevenson
      4. Nixon lost public favor b/c used campaign funds for personal use
      5. but in Checkers speech, won the support through emotional appeal
      6. Eisenhower and Nixon won
   2. Domestic Policies
      1. businesslike tone with successful corporate executives in cabinet
      2. Modern Republicanism
         1. fiscally conservative-- wanted to balance the budget
         2. but accepted New Deal programs and even extended them
            1. Social Security extended
            2. minimum wage raised
            3. additional public housing built
         3. welfare program administration consolidated through the creation of the **Department of Health, Education, and Welfare**
         4. soil bank program initiated to reduce farm production and thus increase farm income
      3. Interstate highway system
         1. **Highway Act** authorized the construction of 42,000 miles of interstate highways linking all the nation’s major cities
         2. national defense used to justify new taxes on fuel, tires and vehicles
         3. created jobs, promoted trucking industry, accelerated growth of suburbs and contributed to more homogeneous national culture
         4. but public transportation suffered as a result
      4. Prosperity
         1. economy grew steadily and inflation was negligible
         2. deficits fell despite only three small surpluses
         3. per-capita income more than tripled, giving Americans the highest standard of living in the world
   3. The Election of 1956 gave Eisenhower the presidency, but Democrats Congress
3. The Civil Rights Movement
   1. Origins of the Movement
      1. **Jackie Robinson** was first black to play on major league team
      2. Truman integrated the armed forces and introduced civil rights legislation in Congress
      3. but blacks still segregated from whites in schools and most public facilities
      4. kept from voting by poll taxes, literacy tests, grandfather clauses and intimidation
      5. movement began because of the Great Migration
      6. civil rights violations contradicted America’s reputation for freedom and democracy in the Cold War
   2. Desegregating the Schools
      1. NAACP had been trying to overturn the Supreme Court’s 1896 decision, Plessy v. Ferguson which allowed segregation with “separate but equal”
      2. **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka**
         1. argued that segregation of black children was unconstitutional because it violated the 14th Amendment’s guarantee of “equal protection of the laws”
         2. ruled that:
            1. separate facilities are inherently unequal and unconstitutional
            2. segregation in schools should end with all deliberate speed
         3. Resistance in the South
            1. states in Deep South closed public schools
            2. used National Guard to prevent blacks from entering Little Rock Central High School
            3. Eisenhower upheld constitutional responsibility to uphold federal authority
            4. federal troops used to protect black students
      3. **Montgomery Bus Boycott**
         1. Rosa Parks didn’t want to move to section reserved for blacks
         2. started protest in Montgomery-- blacks boycotted against city buses
         3. helped SC decide that segregation laws were unconstitutional
      4. Federal Laws
         1. civil rights laws provided for permanent Civil Rights Commission and gave Justice Department new powers to protect voting rights of blacks
      5. Nonviolent Protests
         1. Martin Luther King, Jr. formed **Southern Christian Leadership Conference**, which organized ministers and churches to protect civil rights
         2. **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee** (SNCC) began sitting in to force arrest to bring attention to segregated areas
         3. progress slow, so some blacks became violent
4. Popular Culture in the Fifties
   1. conformity was safe mindset during foreign ideology of communism
   2. Consumer Culture and Conformity
      1. Television
         1. became center of family life by 1961
         2. dominated by three national networks, which presented sit coms, westerns, quiz shows and professional sports
         3. created common content for common language
      2. Advertising promoted common material wants which were easily satisfied with suburban shopping centers and credit cards
      3. paperback books and popular music became very popular
      4. corporate America
         1. conglomerates with diversified holdings began to dominate industries
         2. more American workers held white-collar jobs than blue-collar jobs
         3. corporations promoted teamwork and conformity
         4. unions became more powerful after merger of AFL and CIO
         5. unions also became more conservative as blue-collar workers began to enjoy middle-class incomes
         6. conformity was small price to pay for suburban house, new cars, good schools and vacations
      5. organized religions expanded, while religious tolerance increased
   3. women’s roles
      1. baby boom and homemaking occupied women full-time
      2. traditional roles of women reaffirmed in ***Baby and Child Care*** by Dr. Benjamin Spock
      3. but married women began entering the workforce, despite lower wages
   4. social critics
      1. **David Riseman**’s ***The Lonely Crowd*** criticized the replacement of “inner-directed” individuals in society with “other-directed” conformists
      2. John Kenneth Galbraith’s ***The Affluent Society*** wrote about the failure of wealthy Americans to spend for the public good
      3. **C. Wright Mills**’ ***White Collar*** and ***The Power Elite*** portrayed dehumanizing corporate worlds
      4. novels like Catcher in the Rye and Catch-22 criticized conformity
      5. Beatniks advocated spontaneity, use of drugs and rebellion against societal standards
5. Kennedy
   1. The Election of 1960
      1. Republicans nominated Nixon for president
      2. Democrats nominated John F. Kennedy
      3. television influenced the campaigning heavily
      4. Kennedy’s Catholicism helped him in cities, but hurt him in rural Protestant areas
   2. Domestic Policy
      1. Kennedy brought youthful, personal style
      2. surrounded with both tough-minded pragmatists and liberal economics
      3. New Frontier programs
         1. wanted aid to education, federal support of health care, urban renewal, and civil rights, but failed to pass Congress
         2. but most passed under Johnson
         3. achieved price rollback from big steel executives
         4. economy stimulated by increased spending for defense and space exploration
6. Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society
   1. more experienced than Kennedy, having started out during depression politics
   2. persuaded Congress to pass:
      1. expanded version of Kennedy’s civil rights bill
      2. Kennedy’s proposal for income tax cut
   3. The War on Poverty
      1. created **Office of Economic Opportunity** with billion-dollar budget which created many self-help programs for the poor
         1. **Head Start** for preschoolers
         2. **Job Corps** for vocational education
         3. literacy programs
         4. legal services
      2. reduced number of families living in poverty, before it was cut back to pay for the Vietnam War
   4. Johnson won the Election of 1964 by a landslide
   5. Great Society Reforms
      1. **Medicare**, a health insurance program for those 65 and older
      2. **Medicaid**, government-paid health care for the poor and the disabled
      3. the **Elementary and Secondary Education Act**, providing aid especially to poor school districts
      4. a new immigration law, abolishing the discriminatory quotas based on national origins passed in the 1920s and greatly increasing opportunities for Asians and Latin Americans to emigrate to the United States
      5. the **National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities**, providing federal funding for worthy creative and scholarly projects
      6. created the **Department of Transportation (DOT)** and the **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**
      7. increased funding for higher education
      8. increased funding for public housing and crime prevention
      9. regulated the automobile industry
      10. clean air and water laws enacted in response to Silent Spring
      11. response:
          1. criticized for being unrealistic, inefficient and costly
          2. but also helped millions of Americans who would have otherwise been ignored
          3. however, War on Poverty hurt by actual war in Vietnam
   6. **Civil Rights Acts of 1964** made segregation illegal in all public facilities and gave govt more powers to enforce school integration
      1. also set up **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission** to end racial discrimination in employment
   7. **24th Amendment** abolished poll tax, which had discouraged poll people from voting
   8. **Voting Rights Act of 1965** ended literacy tests and provided federal registrars in areas in which blacks were kept from voting
7. Civil Rights and Conflict
   1. Kennedy didn’t press civil rights issue during election of 1960 because of closeness of race
   2. black veteran **James Meredith** wanted to enroll in University of Mississippi, so Kennedy had to send troops to control mob violence and protect Meredith’s right to attend class
   3. The Leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
      1. despite brutal violence against civil rights activists, MLK Jr urged nonviolent protests
      2. from jail, he wrote “Letter From a Birmingham Jail” again arguing for nonviolent protest
      3. “I Have a Dream” speech following March on Washington
      4. Johnson protected King and other civil rights demonstrators
      5. people still impatient though, so turned to violence
   4. Black Muslims and **Malcolm X**
      1. criticized King for being “an Uncle Tom”
      2. advocated black violence to counter white violence
      3. eventually became less violent; created the **Organization of Afro-American Unity**
      4. assassinated before he could pursue those ideas though
   5. **Black Power** and Race Riots
      1. young blacks started to advocate black power and racial separatism
      2. **Black Panthers**’ slogans made whites suspect that they were behind the race riots, but there was little evidence supporting that
      3. **Kerner Commission** federally investigated the many riots and concluded that US was becoming “two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal.”
      4. segregation no longer just by law, but also by racist attitudes
   6. **Murder in Memphis**
      1. despite being awarded Nobel Peace Prize, King was losing popularity with marches
      2. broke w/ Johnson over Vietnam War b/c it was draining money from social programs
      3. King shot by white man, causing massive riots, killing at least 46
8. The **Warren** Court and Individual Rights
   1. concentrated on property, then individual rights
   2. Criminal Justice
      1. **Mapp v. Ohio (1961)** ruled that illegally seized evidence cannot be used in court against the accused.
      2. **Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)** required that state courts provide counsel (services of an attorney) for indigent (poor) defendants.
      3. **Escobedo v. Illinois (1964)** required the police to inform an arrested person of his or her right to remain silent.
      4. **Miranda v. Arizona (1966)** extended the ruling in Escobedo to include the right to a lawyer being present during questioning by the police.
   3. **Baker v. Carr** declared unfair district line drawing was unconstitutional  
      “one man, one vote.”
   4. Freedom of Expression and Privacy
      1. created more freedom of press, banned religious activities from public schools and guaranteed adults’ rights to use contraceptives
      2. **Yates v. United States (1957)** said that the First Amendment protected radical and revolutionary speech, even by Communists, unless it was a “clear and present danger” to the safety of the country.
      3. **Engel v. Vitale (1962)** ruled that state laws requiring prayers and Bible readings in the public schools violated the First Amendment’s provision for separation of church and state.
      4. **Griswold v. Connecticut (1965)** ruled that, in recognition of a citizen’s right to privacy, a state could not prohibit the use of contraceptives by adults. (This privacy case provided the foundation for later cases establishing a woman’s right to an abortion.)
   5. defense of the rights of unpopular groups and of the freedoms of the accused created controversy
9. Social Revolutions and Cultural Movements of 1960s
   1. college students identified with blacks’ struggle against oppressive controls and laws
   2. **Student Movement and the New Left**
      1. **Students for a Democratic Society** led by **Tom Hayden** issued the **Port Huron Statement**, calling for all university decisions to be made through participatory democracy
      2. supporters became known as **New Left**
      3. **Free Speech Movement** wanted end to restrictions on student political activities
      4. protested against drinking, Vietnam War, and opposite sex dorm visits, wanted greater voice in university government
      5. **Weathermen** were most extreme, using violence and vandalism to attack American institutions
   3. Counterculture
      1. expressed through rebelliou styles of dress, music, drug use and communal living
      2. some became addicts, but had a final fling at **Woodstock Music Festival**
      3. baby boomers were very idealistic, *too* idealistic and ruined themselves
   4. Sexual Revolution
      1. **Alfred Kinsey**’s studies showed that premarital sex, marital infidelity and homosexuality were more common than anyone had suspected
      2. antibiotics and contraceptives made casual sex more possible
      3. use of sex in advertising turned it into another consumer product
   5. The Women’s Movement
      1. **Betty Friedan**’s ***The Feminine Mystique*** encouraged middle-class women to seek fulfillment in professional careers rather than confining themselves to the roles of wife, mother, and homemaker
      2. Friedan also founded **National Organization for Women** which used activist tactics of other civil rights movements to secure equal treatment of women
      3. Congress enacted **Equal Pay Act of 1963** and the **Civil Rights Act of 1964** which prohibited discrimination in employment and compensation on the basis of gender
      4. **Equal Rights Amendment** stated, “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex” but just failed to pass the required 38 states due to growing conservative reaction against radical feminists
      5. despite “glass ceiling,” women’s movement moved forward in employment and hiring practices