The Cold War, Civil Rights, Vietnam, & the Counterculture
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The Truman Years (1946-1952)

• FDR dies on April 12, 1945
• Largest rise in GNP ever (doubles in 15 years) incomes double from $1526/yr - $2788/yr.
• Taft Hartley Act of 1947 (80 day cooling off period)

Civil Rights & the Federal Government

• Desegregation of the military
• Desegregation of the Federal Gov’t.
• Jackie Robinson & Branch Rickey
  • Rickey - Brooklyn Dodgers Gen. Mgr.
  • Robinson – 1st African American MLB (1947)
    • Rookie of the year 1947; MLB MVP 1949

Benefits for Veterans

• The GI Bill
  • Incentives to continue their education after military life

The “Iron Curtain” & Containment

• NATO - Apr. 1949 - Collective Security
  • The Soviet Response (Warsaw Pact)
    • Poland & other Satellite Nations
    • Seeds of the Cold War began in 1917
• The Truman Doctrine & The Marshall Plan (European Recovery Plan)
  • $13 billion over 4 yrs. in grants & loans
  • Soviet Union invited, but refused to participate
  • Berlin Airlift

The “Iron Curtain” & Containment

• McCarthyism – 2nd Red Scare
  • HUAC (est. 1938)
    • Investigate disloyalty on the eve. of WWII
    • Now postwar probe of Communist infiltration of gov’t. agencies & a probe of Hollywood
    • “The Hollywood Ten” & the “Blacklist”
    • “Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?”
• Federal Employee Loyalty Program & Loyalty Review Board (1947)
The Korean Conflict (1950 – 1953)
• Korea after WWII
• The 38th parallel
• Invasion from the North (Chinese)
• US might use any weapon in its arsenal
• The Firing of MacArthur – insubordination (April 11, 1951)
  • wanted to open a second front
  • attacked Truman’s policy in a letter to House Minority Leader (March 1951)

The Election of 1948
• Difficult from the beginning for Truman because of a split in his own party
  • Truman v. Dewey
  • The “Dixiecrats” were against racial integration & civil rights movement
    • Rt. Wing Democrats
    • Strom Thurman was their nominee

Polls got it wrong

The Eisenhower Years (1952-1960)
• Fmr. Supreme Allied Commander of the Allies during WWII
• Favored big business & the Republican approach (cut spending, reduce taxes, balance budget)
  • Dynamic conservatism (K1C2)
    • Korea, communism, & corruption

Eisenhower (Ike)
• End of the Korean War (1953)
  • 55K killed, 113K wounded
  • serious about stopping communism?
• Continuation of the economic boom
  • Big business
  • Credit cards (1960)

Eisenhower
• Women’s roles in the ‘50’s
• Suburbia and “keeping up with the Jones”
• The Beat movement and Rock & Roll
  • “beatniks”- rebelled against conformity and tradition
Eisenhower Years (1952 - 1960)

- Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- The Little Rock 9 & Central High School (integration)

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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The Eisenhower Years (1952-1960)

- The Cold War intensifies!
  - Cuba 1959 - Batista overthrown
  - Invasion of Hungary 1956
  - Sputnik in 1957 & Congress response
  - Interstate Highway system
  - The U2 incident
  - Military Industrial Complex

Sputnik I

Sputnik II

Laika
Major Campaign Issues

- The Economy (sluggish at the time)
- The Missile Gap
- U.S. Prestige
- Threat of Communism
- Civil Rights
- Experience

- Overall, he had a weak ‘mandate’

The Campaign

- Television debates
- Americans put two candidates side by side for the first time with these visible debates (Americans could see for themselves who they liked)
- Candidates went to bed not knowing the results (Tex., Ill., CA)

Election of 1960

Kennedy
- 34,226,731 popular votes
- 49.7%
- 303 EV
- From Massachusetts
- Catholic
- His promise: to get the US economy rolling again!

Nixon
- 34,108,157 popular votes
- 49.5%
- 219 EV
- 118,574 votes separated them
- From California
- Protestant

The New Frontier (Camelot)

- Domestic Policies
  - Key Cabinet Members (The Best and the Brightest)
  - Economy (Keynesian Fiscal Policy)
  - Conservation
  - Civil Rights (24th Amendment)
  - Space Exploration-NASA-committed to landing a man on the moon by the end of the decade
    - Yuri Gagarin (April 12, 1961)
    - “Columbus of the Cosmos”
  - Jackie & the White House
    - Grace & Style

The New Frontier (Camelot) Foreign Policy

- JFK’s stance: stop the spread of Communism
- The presence of Cuba as a major foreign policy issue
  - Proximity
  - Communist (Castro in 1959 – Batista overthrown)
    - US would remain at odds with Cuba for decades to come

The New Frontier - Domestic Policies

- JFK asked for a huge increase in military spending so America could compete w/ USSR for space
- Big business was not a priority for JFK
- He struggled to push through legislation in Congress (not successful)
- No Mandate
The New Frontier: Foreign Policy

- JFK begins to authorize a military build-up to show that the US would not be bullied by the USSR
  - Brinksmanship
  - Deterrence
  - MAD
    - As a response, the USSR began construction on the Berlin Wall in August of 1961

The Bay of Pigs Invasion in Cuba:
- 4/17/1961
- The CIA & US military aided 1500 Cuban exiles in attempting to re-take Cuba and establish a democracy friendly to the US
- Disaster from the start
  - 15,000 Cuban soldiers repulsed the invasion
  - Destroys relations between the US & Cuba

Cuban (Russian) Missiles

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Complete List of U.S. Nuclear Weapons

Cuban Missile Crisis -
- Event Sequence
- Outcome?
- 13 Days

Test-ban Treaty 1963

The Peace Corps.

Alliance for Progress - Created in the Western Hemisphere to discourage the spread of Communism

SE Asia - sends 16,000 military advisors to Vietnam

The Assassination
- Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas, Texas
  - Open air motorcade
  - Cold Case
  - Lee Harvey Oswald
  - Warren Commission
    - The President’s Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy
LBJ (1963-1969)

**Early Victories:**
- Used leadership skills to push through Kennedy legislation
- Income tax reduction
  - GNP rose steadily and the recession disappeared
- The War on Poverty - social welfare spending
- CRA of 1964 – Landmark Legislation

The Election of 1964
- Johnson v. Goldwater
- Major issue: War in Vietnam
- Landslide election resulted in a strong MANDATE for Johnson

The Great Society
- Gains in Congress + landslide victory = passage of legislation unlike anything since the Great Depression
  - Mandate
  - Civil Rights Act (CRA) of 1965 (voting rights)
  - CRA of 1968 (Fair Housing Act)

The Great Society
- Federal aid to education
- Medicare & Medicaid
  - Large part of the Great Society
- Dep’t. of HUD
- Dep’t. of Transportation
- New immigration laws - drop quota system
- 25th Amendment – Presidential Succession

The Great Society
- Economic Opportunity Act
- Volunteers in Service to America
- Elementary & Secondary Education Act
- National Foundation of the Arts & Humanities
- Water Quality Act
- National Transportation & Motor Vehicle Safety Act (NTSB)
Beginning of the end for The Great Society

- The costs of the Vietnam War
- The election of conservative democrats
  - showed the belief that Johnson had given too much authority to the national government
- The split of the Democratic Party (RFK)

Tools of the ‘Negro Revolution’

- This was a ‘grassroots’ movement

  - MLK and the idea of NON-VIOLENT PROTEST (SCLC) Student Christian Leadership Conference
  - SNCC-Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee: it formed to enable students to make their own decisions about priorities and tactics
    - Stokely Carmichael and “Black Power”
      - separate from white society and lead their own communities

The Tools of the ‘Negro Revolution’

- National Urban League -
  - helped newcomers to city life find jobs and homes
- NAACP -
  - interracial organization working to secure full legal equality for all races
- CORE - Congress on Racial Equality
  - challenged segregation in cities
  - also NON-VIOLENT

Alabama - The Devil’s Den

- Montgomery Bus Boycott - Rosa Parks
  - was a catalyst to the Civil Rights Movement (SCLC a product of this event)

  - Birmingham - considered by MLK to be the most segregated city in America
    - Bull Connor
    - Police tactics and T.V.
      - opponents of the Civil Rights Movement

Acts of Protest and Resistance

- Freedom Riders (1961) - African Americans took the public interstate transportation system from state to state on a voter registration drive
  - Freedom Summer
  - Met fierce resistance in Alabama
    - James Cheney killed
    - Buses bombed
    - Violent police tactics to enforce segregation
    - JFK called the protest “unpatriotic”

Acts of Protest and Resistance

- March on Washington (1963) -
  - Organized by A. Philip Randolph
  - Their hope was to convince Congress to pass Civil Rights legislation

  - The Highlight of the March on Washington was MLK’s “I Have a Dream Speech”
"I have a Dream"

Acts of Protest & Resistance
- The Selma, Alabama March of 1965
  - Its major goal was to get voting rights legislation passed.

The Darker Side of the Civil Rights Movement
- Black Muslims & Malcolm X
  - Elijah Muhammad - Founder of the Nation of Islam
  - Malcolm X voiced the need for African Americans to separate themselves from white society

The Darker Side of the Civil Rights Movement
- The Black Panthers & the Black Power Movement
  - addressed the need to be separate from society
  - Huey Newton - Founder
  - Stokely Carmichael - "black power"
  - James Baldwin - *The Fire Next Time*
    - African Americans were angry and tired of promises

Black Power

The Darker Side of the Civil Rights Movement
- James Meredith
  - African American
  - admitted to University of Mississippi
  - Students rioted over admission
  - JFK sent army troops to restore order and protect Meredith
### Results of the Civil Rights Movement

- **Civil Rights Act (CRA) of 1964**
- **Voting Rights act of 1965**
  - many African Americans were elected to office at all levels
- **CRA of 1965**
  - Thousands of African Americans could vote for the first time

### Other Major Movements of the 60’s

#### Feminist Movement
- Theory that men and women should have political, economic and social equality
- Betty Friedan’s book: *Feminine Mystique*
- *Our Bodies, Ourselves*
- NOW - Nat’l. Organization for Women
  - equal work/equal pay
- *Ms. v. Good Housekeeping & Ladies Home Journal*
- Many women rejected the movement (Phyllis Schlafly)

#### Latino American Movement
- Spanish speaking segment of the population - mainly from Latin America
- Journalist Ruben Salazar
- Cesar Chavez-United Farm Workers (UFW)
  - Migrant Farm Workers - country’s most exploited workers
  - **Boycott** of non-union produce (Grapes @ 1st)
    - More Pay, Better Working Conditions & Union Recognition

#### Native American Movement
- Native Americans today are declared citizens of their tribes and the US
- The reason for their activism was the desire for the return of self-government
- Alcatraz (1969 Protest)
- Wounded Knee (S. Dakota - 1973)
  - American Indian Movement (AIM) - militant (Dennis Banks)
  - Forced the U.S. Gov’t. to reexamine Native American Treaty Rights

#### Founded JACL
- Japanese Americans Citizens League
  - Sought Compensation for losses during WWII internment
  - Japanese American Claims Act
    - Eventually paid small sums for losses (some claims not settled until 1968)
    - 1988 U.S. apologized & paid further monetary compensation

#### Campus Protest & the Counterculture
- Movement questioned or rejected trad. values & morals
- Dr. Timothy Leary
  - Psychologist at Harvard
    - “Tune in, turn on, drop out”
- SDS - Students for a Democratic Society (demanded immediate withdrawal from Vietnam)
- Woodstock & Altamont
Environmental Movement
Demanded Honesty & Accountability from Industry & Gov’t.

- Rachel Carson - *Silent Spring* (DDT)
- Garrett Hardin - *The Tragedy of the Commons* (1968)
- Ralph Nader - *Unsafe at Any Speed: The Designed-In Dangers of the American Automobile*
- NRC - Nuclear Regulatory Commission
  - Ensured that nuclear power plants were being run safely & efficiently

The Vietnam War

- **North Vietnam**
  - Capital - Hanoi
  - will be bombed throughout the war by the U.S.
  - Leader - Ho Chi Minh

- **South Vietnam**
  - Capital - Saigon
  - U.S. Embassy here
  - the U.S. will eventually have to evacuate their embassy during the Tet Offensive
  - Leader - Ngo Dinh Diem

The Vietnam War

- **Early years of U.S. involvement:**
  - Kennedy
    - believed that the spread of Communism must be stopped at all cost
    - by 1963, Kennedy had ordered 16,000 military advisors to Vietnam
    - His policy was to steadily increase the number of advisors in Vietnam

- **Kennedy’s Secretary of Defense:**
  - Robert McNamara (R)
  - Shaped Vietnam policy that would drag the U.S. deeper into the war
  - overthrow of the Diem regime

- **1955 - 1975:** Fought to protect S. Vietnam from being taken over by the Communist north.
  - The U.S. government feared that if it did not get involved in the Vietnam War, Communists would take over S. Vietnam
    - The ‘Domino Theory’
    - Containment
The Vietnam War

- The CIA called for and allowed the execution of a coup against the Diem regime
- He was assassinated in Nov. of 1963

War Escalation

- Gulf of Tonkin (Aug. 1964)
  - N. Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked U.S. destroyers in int’l waters
  - The result of these attacks was escalation of America’s involvement
- Congress passed the **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution** giving LBJ unprecedented war-making powers (only 2 no votes)

The War Drags On

- Through 1964, the VC continued to gain more ground in S. Vietnam
  - 1965 - 184,000 US Troops
  - 1966 - 385,000 US Troops
  - 1967 - 485,000 US Troops
  - 1968 - 536,000 US Troops
    - The VC were very skilled at jungle warfare & US soldiers were prone to infection & walking into booby traps

The Tet Offensive

- 1968 – Offensive mounted by the North & the VC
  - Surprise attacks
  - siege of Khe Sanh
  - use of the Ho Chi Minh Trail
    - The role of TV - brought the brutality of the war home
    - effect on LBJ

Brutality of the War

- Confusion on the part of soldiers
- fighting for freedom the South didn’t even seem to want
- soldiers didn’t know who the enemy was
- no face-to-face encounters with the enemy
- Saturation bombing/Agent Orange/Napalm

My Lai Massacre *

- 2nd Lt. William Calley
- Helicopter Pilot - Hugh Thompson
- Door (Machine) Gunner – Lawrence Colburn
The Vietnam War Continues

• Election of 1968 – Nixon wins narrowly
• Invasion of Cambodia 1970 (Nixon)
• 1973 – Peace treaty signed (4 conditions)

The Vietnam War Ends

• 1975 – Fall of Saigon --> Ho Chi Minh
• Domino Theory?
  • Laos & Cambodia
• Legacy of the war:
  • 58,000+ US soldiers killed
  • 300,000+ wounded
  • > 2,500 MIA/POW’s
  • $150 Billion cost
  • Inflation
  • Treatment of returning soldiers

Fall of Saigon

End of the Vietnam War

• Cambodia falls to Communism
  • Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge
  • Cambodians were perhaps the hardest hit people during the war
    • during the war, the US dropped bombs continuously on Cambodia killing 500,000+ civilians
    • when Pol Pot came to power, he killed all civilians that were 'tainted' by the war=1.5 million Cambodians (1/4 – 1/3 of the pop.)

Pong Invented - 1972