

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

## Ch 26: Truman and the Cold War 1945-1952

### Introduction, p 557

WWII changed US from an isolationist country into a military superpower / leader of world affairs. After war, many civilians wanted to go back to domestic life, but the cold war derailed that.

### Postwar America, p 557

15 million serving in the military in 1945-46 faced difficulty finding jobs. Many thought the return of economic hard times. Luckily Americans were able to save and led to an era of prosperity and economic growth. 1950, Americans had highest standard of living in history.

### GI Bill-Help for Veterans

Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (GI Bill of rights) supported greatly in aiding 15 million veterans to peacetime economy. 2 million GIs attended college. Veterans received 4% interest in low-interest

### Baby Boom

Marrriages and births rose during 1950s. 50 million babies were born between 1945-1960. Trend of women in work place continued. By 1966, 1/3 of all married women worked outside the home.

### Suburban Growth

High demand in housing. William S. Levitt led development of post-war suburban with building Levittown, project of 17k mass-produced, low priced family homes on Long Island, New York. Middle or middle class became suburbs.

### Rise of the Sunbelt

Moving became a habit. warmer climate, lower taxes, economic opportunities in defense industries attracted GIs to the sunbelt states from Florida to CA. Military spending kept finance chief of industry, people, and political power.

### Postwar Politics, p 558

Truman, moderate Dem senator from MO, replaced liberal Henry Wallace as FDR's vp in 1944 election. Truman matured into decisive leader appealing to the average citizens.

### Economic Programs and Civil Rights

Truman's proposals for employment and civil rights ran into opposition from conservatives in congress.

- Employment Act of 1946

Sept 1945, Truman urged congress to enact series of progressive measures. After debate, Employment Act of 1946 was watered-downed version.

- Inflation and Strikes

Truman urged congress to continue price controls or wartime to keep inflation in check. South Dem's and Repub to relax controls or Office of Price Administration. Resulted in 250k inflation rate. 4.5 million workers went on strike in 1946, threatened national safety due to railroad and mine workers. Truman used soldiers to keep them operating until United Mine Workers called strike.

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## Ch 26: Truman and the Cold War 1945-1952

### Introduction, p 557

- US from isolationist country to military superpower
- growing conflict between US & Communist Soviet Union

### Postwar America, p 557

- returning military struggled to find jobs & housing
- war increased per-capita income

### GI Bill-Help for Veterans

- supported transition of vets to peacetime economy
- continue edu. - received loans

### Baby Boom

- explosion in marriages & births
- focused women's attention raising kids & homemaking - 1960 - 1/3 married women worked

### Suburban Growth

- construction boom - low mortgage interest rates made moving easier
- cities from Boston to LA became poor & racially divided

### Rise of the Sunbelt

- warm, low taxes, economic opportunities attracted GIs & fam to FL to CA

### Postwar Politics, p 558

- Truman (Dem) was FDR's VP then replaced him in '45
- decisive leader, appealed to avg citizen - tried to continue N. Deal

### Economic Programs and Civil Rights

- conservatives in congress opposed Truman's proposals to help A&Am
  - Employment Act of 1946
  - Council of Ec Ad to council pres & cong w/ promoting national economic welfare
  - Inflation and Strikes
    - 25% inflation, first year of peace
    - 4.5 mil went on strike in 1946
    - Truman used soldiers to operate mines until soldiers came back