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 damped that.

Postwar America, p 557

15 million serving in the military in 1945-46. Great 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 or GI Bill of Rights supported greatly in aiding 15 million veterans to peace time economy. 2 million GI's attended colleges. Veterans received half tuition in low interest.

Baby Boom

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

Suburban Growth

High demand in housing. William Levitt led development of post war suburbs with building Levittown project of 17,000 mass-produced, low priced family homes on Long Island, New York. Majority of middle class became suburban.

Rise of the Sunbelt

Military became a hub. Warmer climate, lower taxes, economic opportunities in defense industries attracted GIs to the Sunbelt states from Florida to CA. Military spending into defense chief of industry, people, and political power.

Postwar Politics, p 558

Truman, a Democrat from MO, replaced liberal Henry Wallace as FDR’s VP in 1944 election. Truman moved into decisive leader appealing to the average citizen.

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 2, 1945, Truman urged Congress to enact series of progressive measures. After debate, Employment Act of 1946 was watered down version.

• Inflation and Strikes

Truman urged Congress to continue price controls or wanted to keep inflation in check. South Penns and Repubs to relax controls. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration. Resulted in 25% inflation rate. 4.5 million office or Price Administration.
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Introduction, p 557
- US: from isolationist country to military superpower
- growing conflict b/w 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 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 poorer & racially divided

Rise of the Sunbelt
- warm, low taxes, economic opportunities attracted GIs & fam - No 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 Alaska
  - Employment Act of 1946
- Council of Eco Adm to counsel pros & cons w/ promoting national economic welfare
  - Inflation and Strikes
  - 25% in layoffs last year of peace
  - 4.5 mil went on strike in 1946
- Truman used soldiers to operate mines until soldiers came back