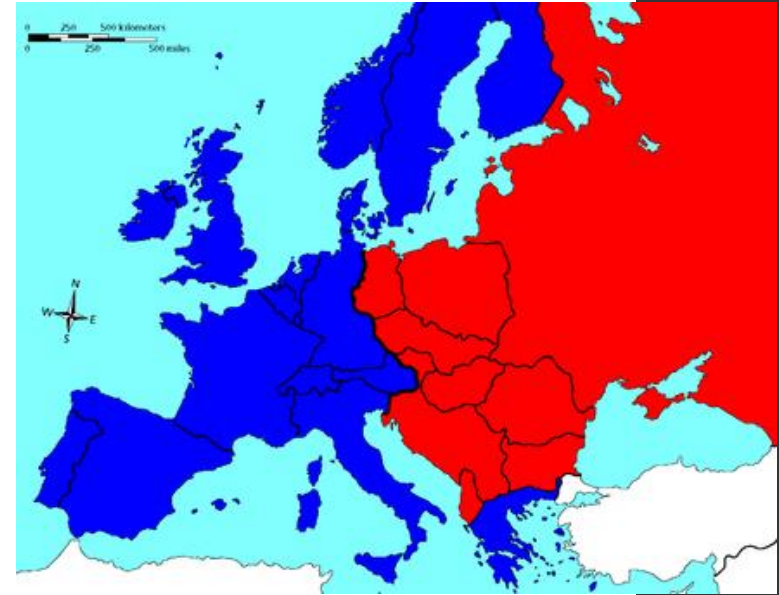# Unit 7: Postwar United States

1945-1970s

Roots of the Cold War

- Despite being allies during WWII, the US and the Soviet Union had very different **political** philosophies and ideologies that created **tension**

- The Manhattan Project was also a source of tension between the two nations, the Soviets saw the creation of an atomic weapon as a potential **threat** against them and had **spies** infiltrate the top-secret project to **steal** the plans

- After WWII, the US and Great Britain were concerned that the Soviet Union would maintain **control** of Eastern European countries – Stalin did and encouraged the spread of communism into these countries to ensure a friendly **border** between the Soviet Union and the historic enemies in **Western** Europe

- Yugoslavia, although also Communist, was the only Eastern European country not under the direct **control** of Stalin and Winston Churchill described this division in Europe as an "**Iron** Curtain"
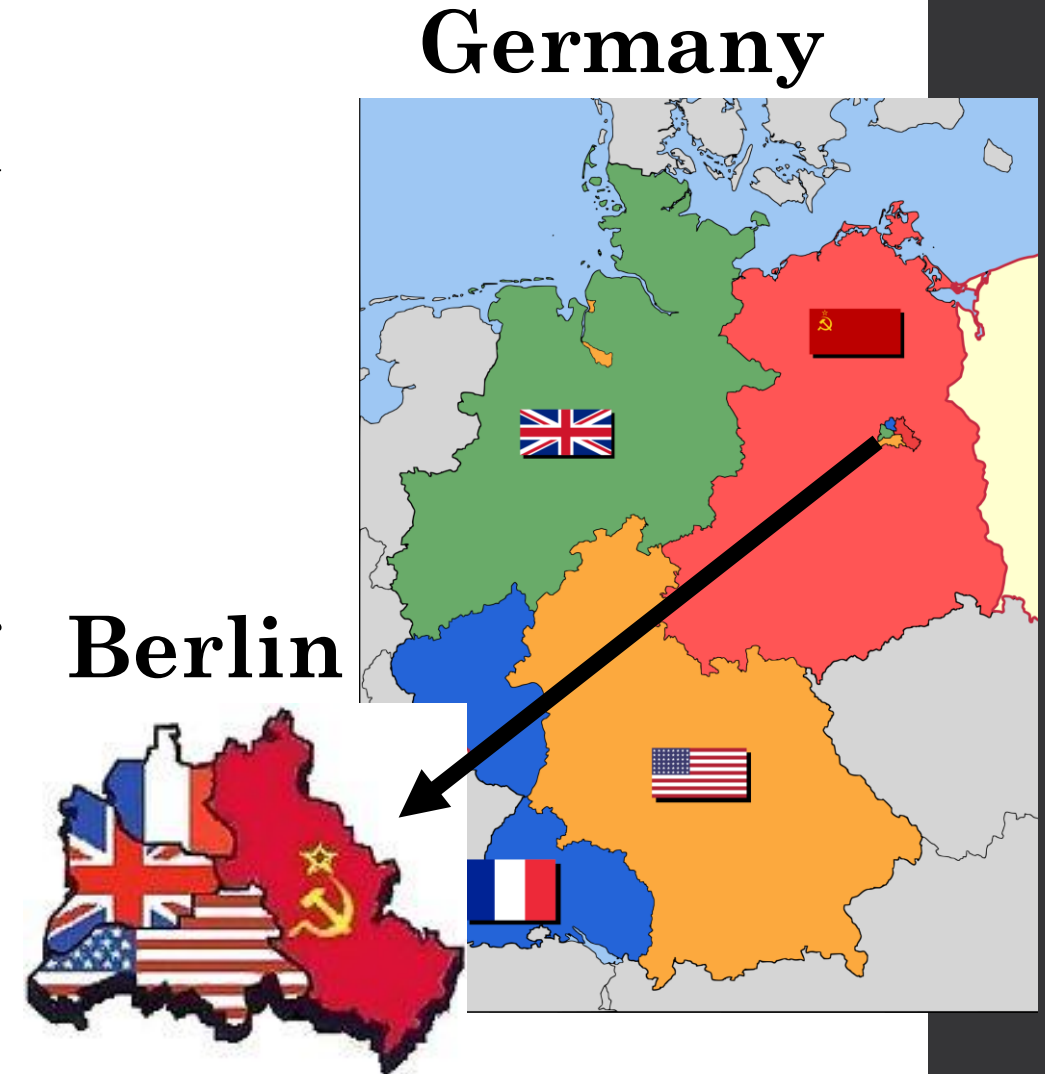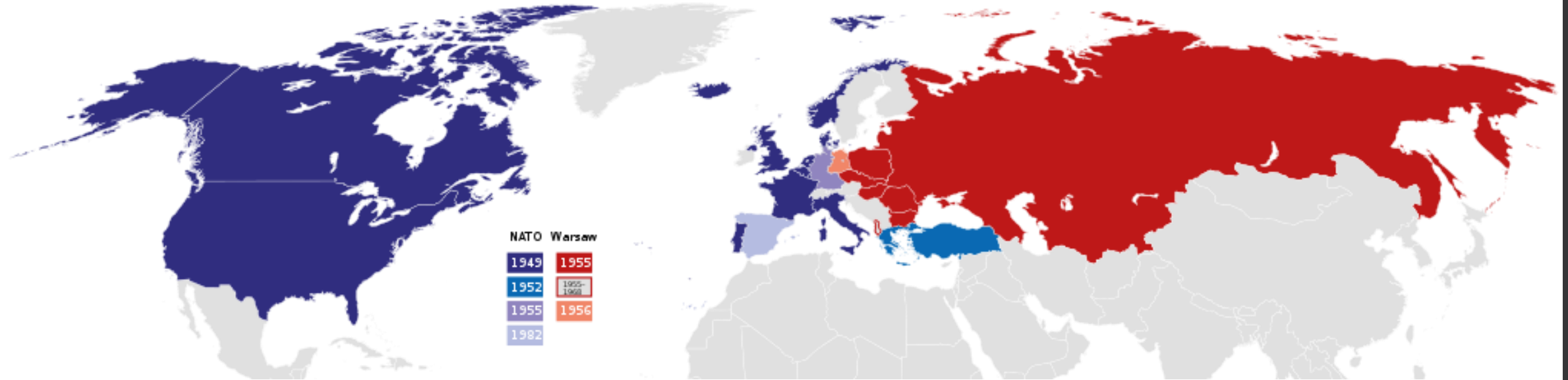
The US Responds

- The official policy of the US became known as "**containment**" – as in trying to contain communism where it was and prevent it from **spreading** to other countries

- In order to prevent the spread of communism, the US would need to offer **economic** and military aid to countries that were being pressured by the Soviet Union to adopt communism – which became known as the **Truman** Doctrine

- The Truman Doctrine, based on a speech by President Truman, encouraged the US to offer millions of **dollars** to countries, such as Greece and Turkey, that were trying to fight Communist influence from gaining control

- The **Marshall** Plan became the program that would provide aid to help rebuild Europe and discourage these suffering countries from becoming Communist, it provided over $**13** billion of economic assistance to more than 17 Western European countries to help them **resist** the influence of communism

Crisis in Berlin

- The Allies had split Germany, and its capital city **Berlin**, into four different zones each to be occupied by one of the four major Allied countries

- The US, British, and French set up a **democratic** government within their zone, known as **West** Germany, and did the same in West Berlin – but the Soviet Union set up **Communist** control in East Germany and East Berlin and were unhappy that a democratic government was operating in the **center** of a communist controlled area

- Soviets **blocked** all routes into West Berlin, cutting off the citizens from resource deliveries, but Western leaders decided to fly supplies in, known as the Berlin **Airlift**, which lasted almost a year until the Soviets lifted the blockade

Germany

Berlin

NATO vs Warsaw Pact

- In 1949, the US and 11 other countries joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**) as a military alliance in response to the growing strength and fear of Soviet power
  - Today **26** countries, even some former Communist countries, are NATO members

- In 1955, after Joseph Stalin died, the new leader, Nikita Khrushchev, created the **Warsaw** Pact as a military alliance of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European controlled countries to defend the Soviet Union in case of attack

Life in America After WWII

- Concern over decreased **demand** for goods and 12 million men and women returning from serving in the war led many to predict another economic crisis, but instead the **GI Bill** ("government issue") helped ease many returning soldiers into civilian life

- The GI Bill provided money for **veterans** to attend college or get advanced job training, secure loans to buy a **house**, farm, or business, and up to **one** year of unemployment benefits if no job could be found

- Demand for consumer goods, like **cars** which were not produced during the war, rose sharply which helped to boost the postwar economy as well as the boom in the **housing** industries as returning veterans purchased homes

- The two decades following the war (1945-1965) would also see a massive increase in the number of babies being born, which came to be known as the "baby **boom**"

- Despite Executive Order 9981 by President Truman to **desegregate** the military, racial minorities faced much discrimination in returning home after WWII

Second Red Scare

- Truman won a close re-election in 1948 and tried to enact his "**Fair Deal**" which would create new programs much like FDR's New Deal had done, but few would be supported as the fear of **communism** began to spread

- News of the Soviet Union creating and **detonating** an atomic bomb as well as taking **control** of China increased the US anxiety over the power of the Soviet Union and communism

- Chiang Kai-shek, Nationalist leader of China and **friend** of the US, fled to Taiwan after WWII when Mao **Zedong** began to impose Chinese Communist control over much of China
  - In the Chinese civil war, the US had backed Kai-shek and the Nationalist party, but they were **defeated** by the Communist Zedong

Fighting the Spread of Communism

- The House Un-American Activities Committee (**HUAC**) was a group in the House of Representatives that investigated possible political **radicals** including Fascists and Communists

- HUAC investigated the Communist influence in the American **Film** industry and ten of those accused **refused** to cooperate with the investigation, becoming known as the "Hollywood **Ten**" which alarmed others in Hollywood, and they began to give names of possible Communists – any that refused to cooperate were "**blacklisted**" and Hollywood refused to hire them

- President Truman took a hard stance against **disloyalty** and investigated government officials, though few were found to be disloyal to America

- Potential **spies** were also investigated:
  - a former government official Alger **Hiss** (found guilty of lying under oath and served prison time but later pardoned by President Nixon)
  - Klaus Fuchs, a German scientist working on the Manhattan Project was found guilty of giving atomic **secrets** to the Soviets and was sentenced to 14 years in prison
  - Julius and Ethel **Rosenberg**, accused of being leaders of a Soviet spy ring refused to cooperate with the investigation and were convicted of espionage and sentenced to death

McCarthyism

- Senator Joseph **McCarthy** gave a speech about the dangers of communism in 1950 and claimed that there were **205** known Communists working for the US Department of State

- In another speech he waived a **list** in front of a crowd claiming it held the names of **57** Communists in the State Department

- This spreading of fear through wild accusations and no evidence to back it up later became known as "**McCarthyism**" although the public was willing to believe him in the beginning

- McCarthyism spread **beyond** the government and into universities, labor unions, and even private businesses as the hunt for **Communists** increased

- The FBI and private investigators produced names of those with questionable **political** beliefs leading to thousands of people across America being fired for political reasons

- Despite the fear of communism, the public began to view McCarthy's tactics as **unfair** and Senator McCarthy's career and McCarthyism would soon **fade** away
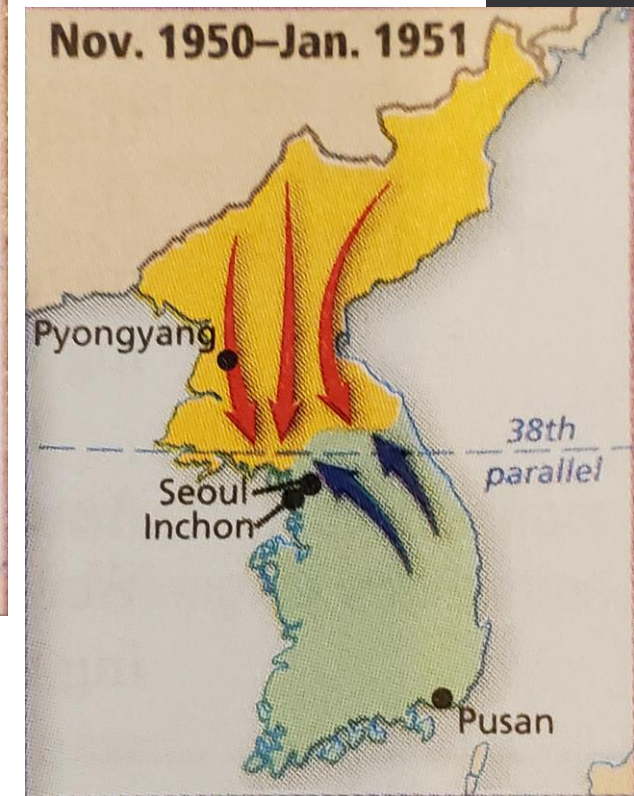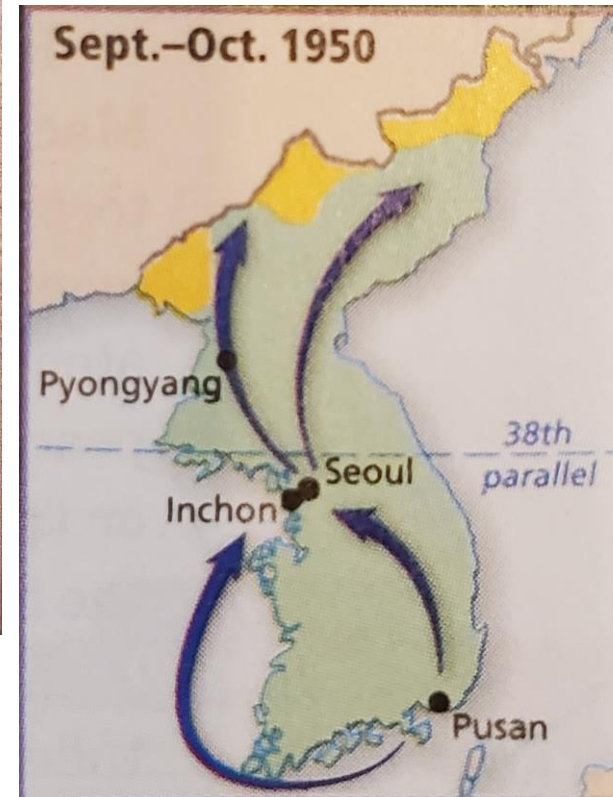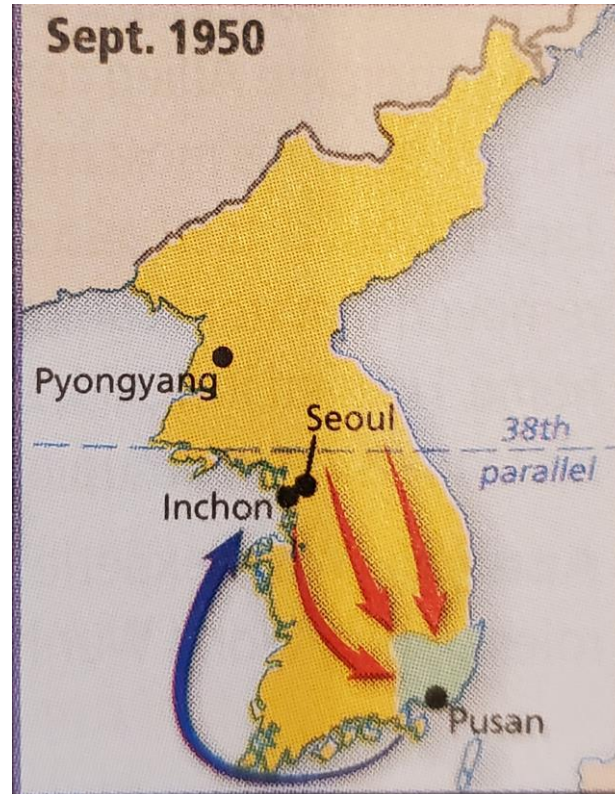
Cold War Turns Hot: Korean War

- After WWII, the Allies split up Japanese-controlled **Korea** between the Soviets who would control North Korea, and the **US** would control South Korea which was temporarily split by the **38th** parallel

- Kim Il Sung, **Communist** leader of North Korea launched an invasion into South Korea, led by elected president Syngman Rhee (although he held dictatorial control over South Korea) hoping to **reunite** the two halves of Korea under Communist rule in 1950

- A small force of **US** soldiers was sent to South Korea to maintain order, but after the invasion by North Korea, Truman asked the **UN** to approve the use of force to stop the **invasion** and the spread of communism

- The US **never** declared war but instead sent US air, naval, and ground troops to help defend South Korea as a UN **police** action, fearing that a declaration of war in Korea would trigger a war between the US and the Soviet Union

Fighting in Korea

- Within three months of fighting, the **North** Korean forces had pushed the **UN** forces to the southern tip of South Korea to a city called **Pusan** where the UN forces made a 130-mile-long line of soldiers around the city where they were told to **defend** it at all costs

- US General **MacArthur** decided to make a surprise landing behind the North Korean lines at Inchon and go on the **offensive** to push the North Korean forces out of South Korea – which worked brilliantly

- MacArthur decided to **risk** advancing past the 38th parallel into North Korea to end the war, but was risking the Chinese or Russian forces coming to the **aid** of North Korea

- Within a month of pushing into North Korea, over 260,000 **Chinese** soldiers flooded into North Korea and quickly pushed the UN forces back into South Korea and MacArthur urged the use of **atomic** bombs in mainland China to regain the upper hand

- Truman decided that **peace** was possible in Korea without expanding the war and involving the Chinese or the Soviet Union and **fired** MacArthur instead – many Americans were upset that the hero of WWII had been fired

Korean War, 1950-1951

June 1950

Pyongyang

38th parallel

Inchon Seoul

Pusan

Sept. 1950

Pyongyang

Seoul

38th parallel

Inchon

Pusan

Sept.–Oct. 1950

Pyongyang

38th parallel

Seoul

Inchon

Pusan

Nov. 1950–Jan. 1951

Pyongyang

38th parallel

Seoul
Inchon

Pusan

Fighting Ends in Korea

- **Peace** talks began between the leaders of North and South Korea along with the UN, but where to establish the **border** hindered the negotiations and **battles** continued with heavy casualties

- Negotiations for peace, the placement of the border, and the return of **prisoners** of war continued throughout 1952 in Korea as WWII hero Dwight D. **Eisenhower** was elected president in the US with a promise to end the war in Korea

- On July 27, 1953, an **armistice** agreement was reached and the Korean War was over, but it left the **map** looking very similar to how it was prior to the war and a high death toll:

- 37,000 **US** soldiers, 60,000 **UN** soldiers, 2 million **Communist** soldiers, and over 3 million North and South Korean **civilians** were killed during the Korean War

Postwar Challenges

The Iron Curtain Falls

- Soviets fail to hold **elections**, install friendly governments
- Truman issues Truman **Doctrine**
- Marshall Plan seeks to aid **Europe**, stop communism
- Berlin crisis leads to Berlin **Airlift**
- Second **Red** Scare occurs in US

Peacetime Transitions

- GI Bill aids adjustment of **soldiers** and sailors
- **Truman** wins re-election
- United Nations and other organizations seek a **safer** world

War in Korea

- Korea is divided after WWII at **38th** parallel
- **Communist** North Korea invades South Korea
- Back-and-forth fighting ends in **stalemate**
- New president Dwight D. **Eisenhower** ends Korean War

Eisenhower Years

- Newly elected president Dwight D. Eisenhower began by helping to resolve the war in **Korea** but would focus on more than just the containment of communism, **rather** the **decrease** of it instead

- His Secretary of State, John Dulles, spearheaded the efforts toward **brinkmanship** as a means of stopping the Soviet Union from expanding their communist power
  - Brinkmanship = going to the brink of **war** to get what you want without having to fight, basically severe **threats** but no follow through

- The US created the **CIA** to collect information about and spy on foreign governments in 1947 and this group was widely used during the 1950s

- When Eisenhower and Khrushchev met in 1955, Eisenhower proposed "open **skies**" so that each country could see what the other was building, but Khrushchev refused and this led to the **U2** incident where an American spy plane was shot down over Soviet air space and the **pilot** was not exchanged for a Soviet prisoner for two years
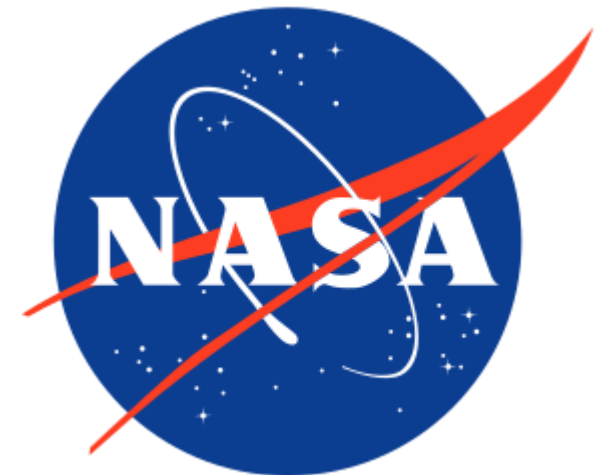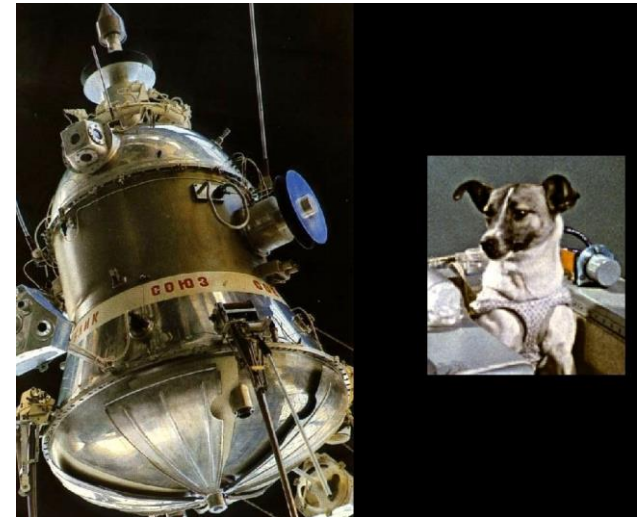
Domino Theory

- The French lost their battle to keep their territory of **Vietnam** in 1954 and it was decided that Vietnam would be **split** in half, the north was under Communist leader Ho Chi Minh and the people of Vietnam were to vote on a new government in 1956

- Eisenhower **rejected** this idea as he felt that a vote toward communism in one country would lead to the **spread** of communism into more countries around the world – the **domino** theory (knock one down and they all fall)

- **SEATO** (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) was created by the US and its anti-communist allies to prevent the spread of communism into Southeast Asian countries, helping to develop the anti-Communist government in **South** Vietnam under the leadership of Ngo Dinh Diem

- The Middle East was another area of tensions rising into violent conflict that Eisenhower wanted to **neutralize**, he did this with the Eisenhower Doctrine, which declared the right of the US to help any nation that asks for help in **resisting** Communist aggression

Arms Race

- Atomic bombs relied on **splitting** atoms apart to create an explosion, but the newest development in weapons was the hydrogen bomb, one that relied on **fusing** atoms together (the same process the sun uses)

- Although authorized by Truman, the **H-bomb** was not ready for testing until 1952 where it all but evaporated the island it was detonated on

- By **1953**, the Soviets had also created and tested their own H-bomb

- With the same technology, both countries began to build up a huge stockpile of weapons (the **Arms** Race) to be ready to defend themselves and the US was shifting its military from one of manpower and tanks to one of **nuclear** weapons and threats of massive devastation

- The first generation of H-bombs were too big to actually be used which led scientists to create **smaller** versions that could be launched at an enemy with the expanding Air Force and the B-52 bombers

Arms Race Leads to Space Race

- The need to launch missiles carrying H-bombs led to the development of smaller bombs and stronger missiles – the **ICBM** (intercontinental ballistic missile) could travel thousands of miles

- Nuclear power was expanded to uses in nuclear powered **submarines** which could travel for months underwater very quickly and carry nuclear weapons and into power generation for **homes** and businesses by 1957

- The Soviets had fewer weapons than the US, but in 1957 they launched the first satellite, *Sputnik*, into space and launched a dog into space in *Sputnik II* only a month later

- The US responded by creating **NASA** and worked around the clock to develop the space exploration program to ensure the capability of **launching** anything anywhere

America Reacts to Nuclear Threats

- Nuclear attacks on cities and the nuclear **fallout** those would leave behind became a major concern for Americans in the 1950s

- Truman had created the Federal Civil Defense Administration (**FCDA**) to educate the public on procedures for nuclear emergencies which Eisenhower continued throughout his presidency

- The FCDA created **booklets** like "How to Survive an Atomic Bomb" and **films** like "Duck and Cover" that taught children how to protect themselves from a nuclear blast

- Air-raid sirens were installed in major cities and tested regularly, and women were called on to prepare the home for nuclear emergencies – this is when many homeowners installed concrete bomb **shelters** on their property

- The disastrous effects of the nuclear fallout after the H-bomb test on the Marshall Islands led the US and Soviet Union to agree to a treaty **limiting** nuclear tests called the Limited Test-Ban Treaty in 1963

1950s and the Television

- After WWII, consumers purchased **television** sets in growing numbers which gave politics, advertising, and entertainment a new format to work with

- Regularly scheduled programs, such as "I Love Lucy" and "American Band Stand" which televised the new rock and roll **music** cultural movement, became widely popular among American families

- In 1950, **9**% of American households owned a television, today **98%** own at least one television

- Although the television was the most popular technological advancement of the 1950s, **transistors** were also developed (smaller more efficient replacements for the vacuum tubes that were in electronics) which allowed for the improvement in size and function of electronics from radios to televisions to **computers**

- In 1952, scientist Jonas Salk developed the **polio** vaccine, drastically reducing the number of polio cases in the US

Cultural Changes in the 1950s

- Although America was economically **prosperous** after WWII with consumer goods, home building, and car manufacturing all at peaks with relatively low **unemployment** rates, not all were so fortunate

- Some critics of America wrote about the nation's poor being forgotten about and others about the push toward "**sameness**" and the loss of American individuality

- The **suburbs** grew rapidly with new cookie-cutter homes being built all over the US, but especially in the "**Sunbelt**" of the American southwest as air conditioning was developed for use in homes

- Eisenhower also pushed for the revamping of the nation's Interstate Highway System to make the US more **interconnected**, but the building of highways often left small towns to die off without visitors

- Rebels such as Elvis Presley and James Dean became the new icons of the **rebellious** rock and roll craze

Kennedy Becomes President

- John F. Kennedy won a very close election against Vice President Richard **Nixon** in 1960 and placed several young men on his cabinet to advise him

- During the election, JFK learned that the **CIA** was secretly training a group of Cuban exiles to invade and **overthrow** the Cuban leader Fidel Castro

- Castro had gained power promising to return the Cuban peoples' rights and **freedoms**, however he seized private businesses and began to make anti-American speeches instead

- Former President Eisenhower had allowed a plan to develop that would lead the US to facilitate an attack on **Cuba** and attempt to overthrow the new Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, and his Communist government

- The Bay of Pigs Invasion was a **disaster** instead, with an unmarked US plane landing in Florida instead of back in Nicaragua, the US was clearly involved in the attack and JFK was forced to **abandon** the plan so as not to incite a war with the Soviet Union

- JFK was able to secure the release of the **1,200** prisoners captured during the Bay of Pigs Invasion a year later with a $52 million dollar deal for food and medical aid to Cuba

The Berlin Crisis

- The Soviet Union came to the aid of **Cuba** during the Bay of Pigs Invasion when JFK decided not to send in US troops, but this was a sign of **weakness** to Khrushchev

- **Berlin** became the central focus of the issue for the Soviet Union and the US and as they argued back and forth, the Soviet Union constructed a barbed wire **fence** between East and West Berlin overnight that was soon replaced by a concrete **wall**

- The Berlin Wall was built as a way to keep communist East Berliners from **escaping** into the "free" West Berlin but was also initially seen by JFK and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson as a way to prevent war

- There was a secondary wall built on the East Berlin side that was a death zone for anyone that entered it without permission
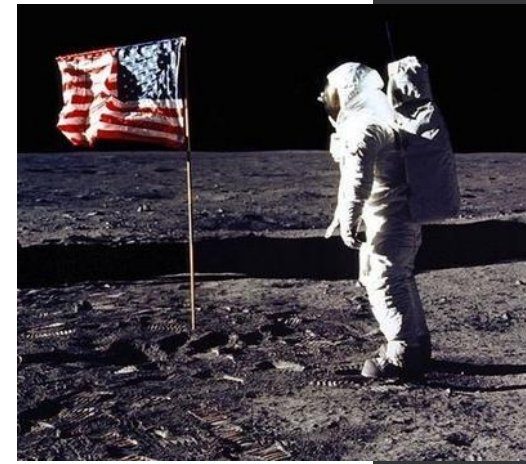
Cuban Missile Crisis

- The failed Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Berlin Crisis led many to believe that JFK was "soft on communism" including Khrushchev

- The US had placed nuclear **missiles** in Turkey which led the Soviet Union to install antiaircraft weapons and nuclear missiles on **Cuba**, close to the US

- U2 planes found evidence of defensive and offensive **missiles** in Cuba and JFK assembled a team of advisors to help him decide what to do

- JFK decided to set up a **blockade** around Cuba preventing the Soviet Union from bringing in the nuclear missile equipment which turned into a 13-day **standoff** between the two countries

- Over 500 US bomber planes and 100,000 troops were prepared for a **fight**, but the Soviet Union agreed to turn back if the US would remove their nuclear missiles from Turkey

- This was the closest the US and Soviet Union came to a **physical** fight during the Cold War

Kennedy's Foreign Policy

- Kennedy created the **Peace** Corps to help foreign countries build and resist communism by sending **volunteers** trained in health care, education, agriculture, and other areas to improve goodwill with the US across Latin America, Asia, and Africa

- The Alliance for **Progress** was another of JFK's programs to boost anticommunist feelings, but it did not work as the financial aid often went to anti-Communist **dictators** that had little support among their people

- JFK also continued the **arms** buildup of the previous presidents and focused on the containment of communism

- He also developed the strategy of "**flexible** response" which involved strengthening the armed forces so that the US would not have to rely on using **nuclear** weapons in a war situation
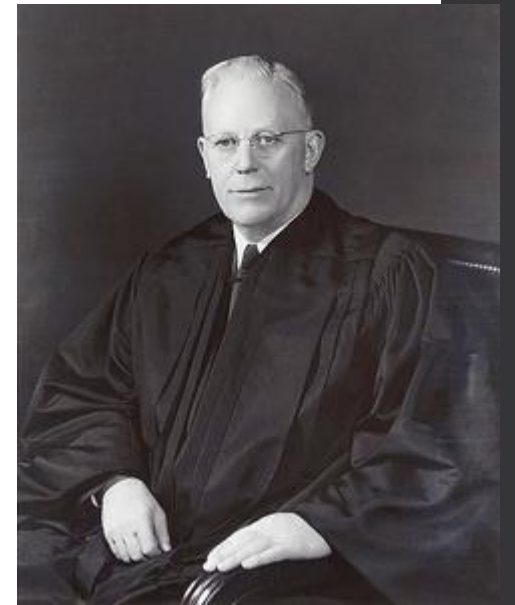
Kennedy's New Frontier

- Americans liked the **image** of President Kennedy and his young wife "Jackie" and their two children, he was a young president, and his family had a lot of **energy** that had not been seen in the White House in a long time

- JFK was able to use his public **popularity** to make things happen despite Congress blocking many of his proposals like lowering **taxes** to fight unemployment rates, providing federal aid to education, or creating a health care plan for the elderly

- JFK was one of the wealthiest presidents to hold the position but focused on helping the nation's **poor** with his Area Redevelopment Act in 1961 and convincing Congress to create work training programs and raise the minimum wage from $1 to **$1.25** per hour

- His New Frontier plans also included the bold plan to restore America's image of greatness by announcing that the US would land a man on the **moon** by end of the decade and asked Congress to fund the **space** program

Warren Court

- Supreme Court Chief Justice, Earl Warren, was responsible for making major changes in American **society** with Supreme Court decisions during his time as Chief Justice, nicknamed "**Warren** Court"

- Chief Justice Warren was instrumental in the Brown v. Board of Education decision that **banned** racial segregation in public schools, as well as several decisions that would reform **voting** rights and require that voting districts remain equal in population so that everyone's vote holds equal weight

- The rights of the accused were also expanded requiring all **police** to have a search warrant not just federal police, free lawyers must be provided to poor people on trial, people have the right to have a lawyer present during police questioning, and rights must be read to a suspect before police can question them (**Miranda** v. Arizona, 1966)

- To ensure religious freedom for all, the Warren Court banned formal **prayers** in public schools as well as Bible readings

The Kennedy Assassination

- November 22, **1963**, on a campaign tour, JFK and his wife were riding in a convertible through Dallas, **Texas** when shots rang out from a 6th story window mortally wounding the president

- Within hours of the assassination, Vice President Lyndon B. **Johnson** was sworn in as president aboard Air Force One while the nation was in shock

- Lee Harvey **Oswald** was arrested for the shooting of JFK due to his ties to the Soviet Union and Cuba, but while being transferred from the Dallas Police Dept. to county jail, Oswald was shot to death by Jack **Ruby**, a nightclub owner with ties to organized crime

- President LBJ commissioned an investigation into the assassination and named Chief Justice Earl Warren as the head of the investigation – known as the Warren **Commission**

- No evidence was found that Oswald and Ruby were working together, but suspicions of a **conspiracy** have been investigated since the assassination

- JFK was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery after a televised funeral and his **legacy** of attempting to solve social, economic, and environmental issues would be left to LBJ

Johnson Becomes President

- Johnson had government and leadership **experience** serving as the head of a New Deal program during the Great Depression, and as a Senator from Texas prior to running as the Vice President with JFK

- LBJ was very concerned with the American **poor** and asked Congress to pass the programs that JFK had proposed in honor of his service and **sacrifice** for the nation

- LBJ would also continue JFK's plan to wage a "War on **Poverty**" throughout the rest of his term and created programs like the Job Corps to help get the poor trained for jobs

- Among other programs and ideas, JFK's **tax**-cut to get the economy moving and reduce unemployment rates and the Civil **Rights** Act (of 1964) were top priorities for LBJ to get passed through Congress

LBJ's Great Society

- Johnson won a strong victory in the 1964 election as a **reformer** with plans to help those in need like FDR and his New Deal programs

- LBJ called his plan the "**Great** Society" which would focus on creating programs designed to help the poor, the **elderly**, improve public and higher **education**, and environmental issues

- Some of the Great Society highlights include the Elementary and Secondary Education Act which provided federal funding to schools with low-**income** students, the Higher Education Act which provided scholarships and low-interest loans to college students, the Voting Rights Act which ended the use of **literacy** tests in voting, and the Social Security Amendments which created **Medicare** and Medicaid

- The Public Broadcasting Act also created **PBS** for television and **NPR** for radio that offered alternatives to commercial based programming

LBJ's Foreign Policy

- Almost 200 of LBJ's ideas were signed into law, but many began to fear that he was making too many **changes** too quickly and the support for the Great Society programs dwindled after **1966**

- The US's involvement in the Vietnam War was very **costly** which also lessened support for the expensive programs dealing with **internal** issues

- LBJ was fully committed to stopping the spread of communism as several previous presidents had been, he sent troops to stop a rebellion in the Dominican Republic to prevent a **Communist** dictatorship from taking hold – this action and the idea behind it became known as the **Johnson** Doctrine

- LBJ also continued Kennedy's efforts to improve relations between the US and the Soviet Union and signed a **treaty** in May 1967 that would protect the diplomats of each country from harassment while in the other country

Trouble Brewing in Vietnam

- Vietnam had rich natural **resources** and had been invaded by foreign nations for centuries

- The French had taken over Vietnam and neighboring Laos and Cambodia, calling the area French **Indochina**, in 1883 and then lost control of the area to the Japanese during WWII

- After the **Japanese** withdrew from the area at the end of WWII, the leader of the Vietnamese Independence movement, Ho Chi Minh, with his **Vietminh** (the resistance fighters) declared Vietnam to be independent, but France reclaimed the territory

- Ho Chi **Minh** believed that Vietnam's fight for independence from France was similar to the American independence struggles and expected the **US** to support him and his goals for independence – but he had joined the French **Communist** Party while living in France and continued his study of communism while living in China and the Soviet Union between WWI and WWII

Vietnam After WWII

- For the US, stopping the spread of communism was the main goal of the Cold War and supported **France** as it fought to maintain control of French Indochina

- President **Truman** was unwilling to support Ho Chi Minh and his independence movement in Vietnam because of his Communist beliefs and the many Communist **members** of his Vietminh

- **China** had just fallen to Communism with the takeover by Mao Zedong, Communist **North** Korea had invaded South Korea, and there were several Communist uprisings in other Southeast Asian countries that all led the US to focus on **containing** communism

- President Eisenhower spoke of his **domino** theory and fully committed the US to support the French in containing communism by sending weapons, supplies, and money to aid in their **war** efforts in Vietnam in 1954

Geneva Conference

- The **French** surrendered to the Vietminh after the battle at Dien Bien Phu where they hoped the US would send soldiers to help

- Vietminh had been using **guerrilla** war tactics and gained a lot of experience in fighting against the French for eight years

- Representatives from **France**, Great Britain, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, China, the Soviet Union, and the **US** met in Geneva, Switzerland at the Geneva Conference to decide on a peace agreement and the future of **Indochina**

- Geneva Accords in July 1954 set up a cease-fire and temporarily divided Vietnam at the **17th** parallel with a **DMZ** at the border to act as a buffer zone and prevent fighting between the Vietminh who would control the northern half under **Communist** rule of Ho Chi Minh and the non-Communist leader of the southern half, Ngo Dinh Diem

- Elections were to be held in 1956 to **reunite** Vietnam under one leader and government style, the US did not want that to be a **Communist** one

Division Leads to Civil War in Vietnam

- Ho Chi Minh became more totalitarian in leadership style, breaking up former colonial estates and giving land to the **peasants**, making him very popular

- Ngo Dinh Diem was **corrupt** and used favoritism to reward family members, friends, and wealthy landowners, making him very **unpopular** – even to the US, but at least he wasn't a Communist

- Diem did not allow the 1956 **election** to take place in South Vietnam for fear that he would lose the election, which caused a **revolt** of Diem's opponents in South Vietnam

- The Vietminh rebels in South Vietnam reorganized and called themselves the **Vietcong** (Vietnamese Communists) and Ho Chi Minh began sending supplies to the Vietcong to help them fight against Diem's army and **reunite** North and South Vietnam, leading to a full-on civil **war** in South Vietnam

- President Eisenhower had begun to give money and weapons to **Diem's** army to fight communism and President Kennedy would allow for direct combat of the US soldiers in South Vietnam by 1961

Diem's Overthrow

- Diem's government grew more unpopular with **Buddhist** monks lighting themselves on fire in **protest** of his leadership which shocked Americans and the threat of pulling US support of his government if he did not change his ways

- US leaders began to plot the **overthrow** of Diem but were not supposed to kill him, Diem was murdered in November 1963, only three **weeks** before JFK was assassinated

- LBJ felt that **expanded** US military presence in South Vietnam was the only way to keep communism from spreading, but needed approval from Congress, which he was able to get after he **misrepresented** an incident off the coast of North Vietnam with a US ship getting attacked

- The Gulf of **Tonkin** Resolution was approved by Congress which allowed LBJ to take "all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against forces of the US"

- Some felt giving the president war making **powers** without a declaration of war from Congress was a dangerous precedent to set
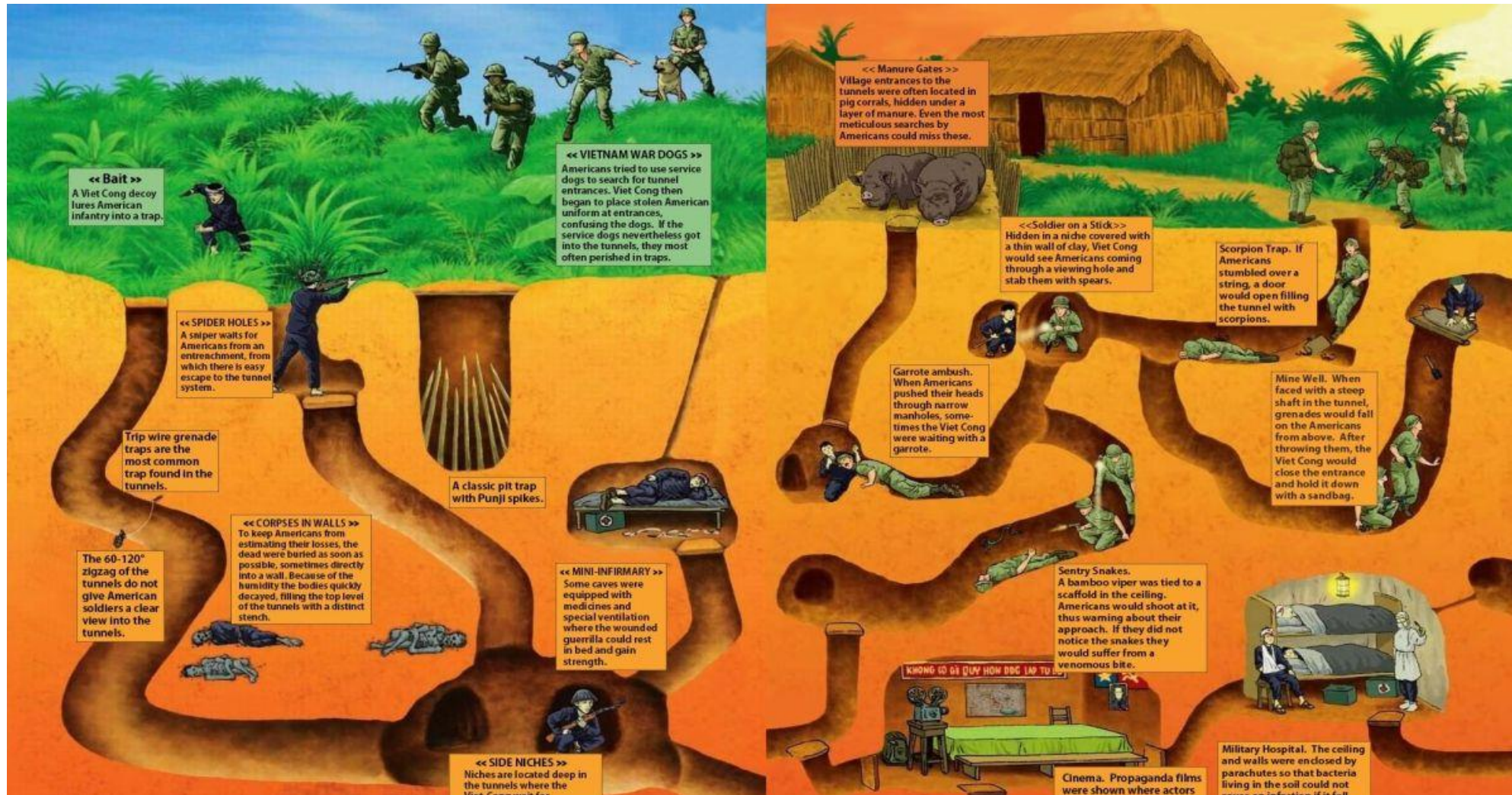
US Gets More Involved

- President Johnson ordered Operation Rolling **Thunder** which was a bombing campaign in North Vietnam to damage military bases, bridges, **roads**, and anything that could be used to help their war effort

- The Ho Chi Minh **Trail** was a network of paths that began in North Vietnam and went through Laos and Cambodia into South Vietnam to deliver **weapons**, soldiers, and supplies to the **Vietcong** and was a major target of the bombing campaign

- Agent Orange (a chemical that kills vegetation) and **Napalm** (jellied gasoline that creates firebombs to destroy farms and forests) were used to clear away the thick **jungle** that the Vietcong were hiding in

- Despite the bombing campaign, the **Vietcong** were growing in number and strength with the help of the Chinese and Soviets

Search and Destroy

- President Johnson called for the **escalation** of US involvement and sent in half a million troops by 1967

- US Commander William **Westmoreland** ordered search-and-destroy missions to clear the land and villages of **Vietcong**, but Vietcong would return soon after the area was declared "cleared"

- US troops would relocate South Vietnamese **villagers** to a safe area and **burn** their village so that Vietcong could not use it, creating **resentment** of villagers toward Americans

- Fighting a guerrilla war in a dense jungle in and around civilian villages with no way to **differentiate** friendly from foe left US troops in a constant state of high alert with little victory to show for their efforts and decreased **morale**

Vietcong Tunnel System

Mobilization and the Draft

- Over 2.5 million Americans served in the Vietnam War, the average age was **19**, and 80% of soldiers had a high school education or less

- As the US increased its presence in South Vietnam, it began to **draft** soldiers into the armed forces, but the men drafted were largely from low-**income** backgrounds

- 30% of the men that registered for the draft were given a **postponement** of service due to enrolling in college, low-income families were often unable to enroll in **college**, so few were able to avoid the draft

- Thousands of young men avoided or "**dodged**" the draft by going to Canada

- By 1969, the government made the draft a **lottery** system based on birthdates to make it fairer, and by **1973** they ended the draft

Public Opinion Shifts

- Americans **supported** the Vietnam War effort early on, but more than 16,000 US soldiers had been killed by 1968 and people began to **question** the US's involvement

- **Reporters** and television crews followed US troops throughout Vietnam and interviewed people which were all aired on American **televisions**, this was in hopes of showing progress in the war effort, but it brought images of **firebombs** and destruction into the living rooms across America that seemed to go **against** the positive reports of US officials

- Debates at home about the US involvement in the war increased and the divide between the "**hawks**" (people that supported the war effort) and the "**doves**" (people opposed to the war effort) grew wider and a large antiwar **movement** began on college campuses across the US

Tet Offensive

- The Vietcong launched a major offensive on **Tet**, the lunar New Year, when both sides had previously observed a cease-fire to **celebrate** the holiday

- Vietcong attacked the US **Embassy** and several other sites in Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, along with over **100** other military and urban targets

- Vietcong hoped the attack would inspire more civilians to **join** them, but many had been **killed** for suspicion of helping the Americans and many others were left homeless because of the damage of the attack

- Many in the news media and the LBJ administration began to **doubt** America's ability to win the war and protesters began to picket outside the White House chanting "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?"

- LBJ decided not to **run** for reelection in 1968 and attempted peace negotiations with North Vietnam but none were **finalized**

Election of 1968

- JFK's brother **Robert** Kennedy entered the presidential race as a Democrat but was assassinated by an angry immigrant after a campaign speech

- LBJ's Vice President, Hubert **Humphrey**, was selected as the Democratic candidate after a massive and violent antiwar **protest** outside the Democratic National Convention meeting in Chicago where 600 protesters were arrested

- Former VP, Richard Nixon, ran as the **Republican** candidate, promising an honorable **end** to the Vietnam War and restoring "law and order" at home

- George Wallace, former Alabama Governor who **opposed** the Civil Rights Movement, ran as an Independent candidate

- Richard **Nixon** won a very close race in the popular vote to Humphrey but a large margin in the electoral college

Nixon and the Vietnam War

- Nixon's plan for ending the war was a **gradual** US exit from South Vietnam and turning the fighting over to the South Vietnamese Army, a strategy called **Vietnamization**

- Nixon was working on secret **peace** negotiations with North Vietnam while bringing US troops back home over the first couple years of his presidency

- He **expanded** the war by bombing Cambodia in 1969 trying to disrupt the Ho Chi Minh Trail, but hid it from the public, **Congress**, and some military officials

- In 1970, he expanded **ground** troops into Cambodia and Laos to destroy North Vietnamese military bases and started up the **bombing** campaign in North Vietnam again

- Nixon was trying to **pressure** North Vietnam into peace negotiations, but even after Ho Chi Minh died in 1969, North Vietnam was still launching **invasions** into South Vietnam

Increasing Protests

- When Nixon announced that he had **expanded** the war into Cambodia, many antiwar **protests** were staged, especially on college campuses

- At Kent State University in **Ohio**, antiwar demonstrators lit the ROTC building on fire and the National Guard troops were sent to disperse the protestors, when rocks and insults were thrown at the soldiers, some began to **fire** into the crowd – four students were **killed** and nine injured

Crosby, Stills, & Nash - "Ohio"

- Several days later a similar incident occurred at Jackson State College in **Mississippi** where two students were killed and **nine** injured

- America was horrified at the images of the youth being gunned down on college campuses and students and faculty went on **strike** nationwide

Tin soldiers and Nixon coming
We're finally on our own
This summer, I hear the drumming
Four dead in Ohio
Gotta get down to it
Soldiers are cutting us down
Should have been done long ago
What if you knew her
And found her dead on the ground
How can you run when you know?
Na na na na
Na na na na
Na na na na
Na na na
Na na na na
Na na na na
Na na na na
Na na na
Gotta get down to it
Soldiers are cutting us down
Should have been done long ago
What if you knew her
And found her dead on the ground
How can you run when you know?
Tin soldiers and Nixon coming
We're finally on our own
This summer, I hear the drumming
Four dead in Ohio
Four dead in Ohio (four)
Four dead in Ohio (four)
Four dead in Ohio
Four dead in Ohio (how many more?)
Four dead in Ohio (why?)
Four dead in Ohio
Four dead in Ohio
Four dead in Ohio
Four dead in Ohio

Antiwar Movement Grows

- Nixon thought the antiwar protestors represented a **small** percentage of Americans, but polls in 1969 showed over **half** of Americans opposed the war

- Many groups, more than just college students, began to protest the war and the **largest** antiwar demonstration took place in Washington, D.C. with over **250,000** people in attendance

- In 1971 a group of **800** Vietnam **Veterans** gathered in front of the Capitol to protest the ongoing war and threw down their war medals

- Small groups of **radical** protestors took a violent approach, setting off bombs in New York City and Washington, D.C., and a group called the Weatherman led the "Days of Rage" to attempt to take over **Chicago** wielding lead pipes, chains, and gas masks – these were **not** supported by the public

- News of the covered up My Lai **Massacre**, the killing of 450 men, women, and children in 1968 by US soldiers and the leaking of the "Pentagon Papers" furthered Americans **distaste** of the war and fueled the antiwar movement

Ending US Involvement

- During the 1972 election, **Nixon** campaigned for reelection with a promise to quickly end the war and still promised "law and order" at home

- The passage of the **26ᵗʰ** Amendment which lowered the voting age from 21 to **18**, gave Nixon's opponent hope to win the election since his supporters were young

- Nixon won in a landslide when his adviser Henry Kissinger announced that "**peace** is at hand" in his dealings with peace negotiations with North Vietnam

- Those peace negotiations **stalled** and Nixon ordered a two week bombing campaign of major cities in North Vietnam known as the **Christmas** bombing

- Negotiations resumed in January **1973** and the US agreed to **remove** all troops from South Vietnam, to help rebuild Vietnam, and both sides agreed to release prisoners of war – but the political future of South Vietnam was left **unresolved**

Legacy of the Vietnam War

- Two years after the US withdrew from South Vietnam, North Vietnam **invaded** and took over, establishing a Communist government and **reuniting** the two halves of Vietnam – Americans working in Vietnam and 130,000 Vietnamese were **evacuated** to the US

- Violence continued in Cambodia leading to a Vietnamese invasion and **occupation** of the area until the UN stepped in to monitor peace in 1989

- 185,000 South Vietnamese **soldiers**, 450,000 South Vietnamese **civilians**, 1 million Vietcong, and 58,000 **American** soldiers were killed during the Vietnam War

- Over 1.5 million South Vietnamese fled the country after North Vietnam took over and about **700,000** Southeast Asians settled in the US

- Bombing and chemical warfare left devastation and environmental **damage** in Vietnam and many soldiers developed cancer and other illnesses due to exposure to **chemicals** while babies born in Vietnam after the war had high rates of birth defects

Impact of the Vietnam War

- Returning Vietnam Veterans were not met as war **heroes**, but instead were spit on and called baby killers, many had trouble readjusting to civilian life and suffered from **PTSD**

- The US spent over **$150** billion on the Vietnam War and were unable to stop the spread of **communism**

- Many Americans were **angry** that officials mislead them and felt that Johnson and Nixon had overstepped their powers to continue the war which led to the War Powers Act which limits the president to 60-days of troop involvement in a conflict without **approval** or a declaration of **war** by Congress

- Americans are more cautious of getting involved in foreign conflict since Vietnam, but the Vietnam War Memorial has helped many veterans to heal from their experiences during the war
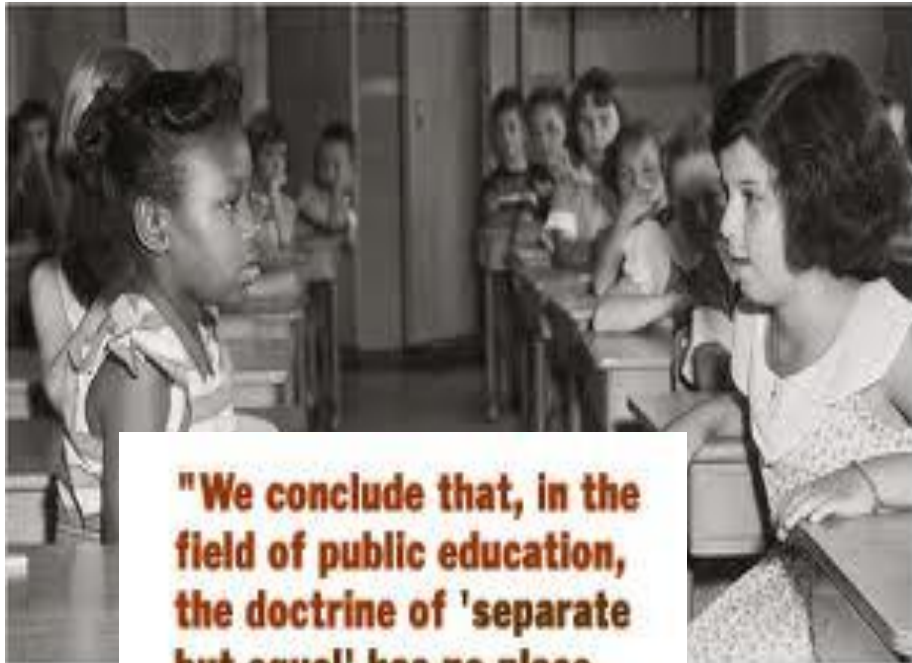
Roots of the Civil Rights Movement

- **Hitler's** use of racism during WWII caused many Americans to see the **destruction** racism and segregation was causing in America and pushed to end the mistreatment of **minority** groups

- Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s was based on the groundwork of early reformers such as W.E.B. **DuBois**, CORE, and Jackie Robinson, with lawyer Thurgood Marshall becoming a **champion** of the movement in the courts

Early Civil Rights Victories	
1940	**NAACP** Legal Defense Fund founded by Thurgood Marshall
1941	Ban against discrimination in **defense** industry
1942	Founding of **CORE** (Congress of Racial Equality)
1947	Integration of Major League Baseball by Jackie Robinson
1948	Desegregation of armed forces

Brown overturns *Plessy*

"We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

- *Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)* allowed **segregation** (separation of races) in public schools as long as the facilities were "**equal**" – *but they weren't*

- Thurgood **Marshall** (a lawyer with the NAACP) helped to end segregation in **public** schools by winning the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* case in **1954**

- The Supreme Court ruled that public schools should be **desegregated** with "all deliberate speed" but did not set a timeline, so segregation lasted for several more **years** in most states

Montgomery Bus Boycott

- Rosa **Parks** was arrested for not giving up her seat to a white person on the city bus in 1955

- Parks' arrest led to the African American bus riders to **boycott** (or refuse to buy/use) the city busses until busses were desegregated

- Martin Luther King, Jr. (a young minister) spoke to the boycotters and encouraged them to keep fighting for **justice** – the boycott lasted 13 months

- African American boycotters were being threatened, bombed and thrown in **jail** – which caught the media's attention

- Results of the bus boycott:
  - Ended segregation on city busses
  - Led to the creation of the **SCLC** (Southern Christian Leadership Committee) which coordinated protests
  - Pushed Martin Luther King, Jr. into the spotlight as a Civil Rights **leader**

Little Rock Nine

- In Little Rock, Arkansas in **1957**, nine African American students were forced to **integrate** Central High School but the governor ordered the National Guard troops to **stop** the black students

- Eight of the nine students were called and told they would be driven to school, but Elizabeth **Eckford** rode the bus alone…

The story of the Little Rock Nine

Students Get Involved

- In 1960, four African American college students held a "sit-in" at a white's only lunch counter to **protest** segregation in public places

- By the end of the week, the four original protesters had grown to over **100**, including some whites, which spread the idea of sit-ins across the **south**

- **Segregationists** fought back by pouring ammonia and itching powder over the protesters, beat them, burned them with cigarettes and even sent some protesters to jail

- Due to the success of the sit-ins, an **organization** was created by the Civil Rights leaders for young people to get involved in the fight for Civil Rights
  - Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (**SNCC**)

Kennedy and CORE

- In 1960, John F. Kennedy is elected president after arranging the **release** of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from jail

- Although Kennedy won the support of African American voters, there were not many of them at the time and barely won the election

- The Congress of Racial Equality (**CORE**) pressured the **federal** government to pay more attention to Civil Rights issues and planned Freedom Rides

- Freedom **Rides** were a form of protest to desegregate **interstate** busses

- Freedom Riders (**both** black and white) would ride busses from the north into the south with whites in the **back** of the bus and blacks in the front

- Riders were beaten severely, busses were burned, some riders were even **killed**

- President Kennedy finally sent marshals to protect the riders and the government soon **desegregated** interstate busses

Protests in Birmingham

© The Associated Press

- Birmingham, Alabama was led by Public Safety commissioner Eugene "**Bull**" Connor and he was extremely racist

- Civil Rights groups such as **SNCC** and **SCLC** thought that nonviolent protesters being attacked by Bull Connor would help the **nation** see the need for change

- Martin Luther King, Jr. was **arrested** after the first week of protests and wrote a Letter from Birmingham Jail

- Civil Rights groups had recruited **children** to march through Birmingham to draw on Southerners' emotions

- Bull Connor and the police used **fire** hoses and dogs to **attack** the protesters

- The media captured the images of children being attacked and the nation was **horrified**

- Birmingham was soon desegregated

Birmingham to Washington, D.C.

- 4 children were killed in the **bombing** of a Baptist Church in 1963 in Birmingham, AL

- A **march** was planned in Washington, D.C. to build support for the Civil Rights movement

- MLK, Jr. gave the famous "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial

- President Kennedy promised more **support** for Civil Rights

Kennedy and Civil Rights

- On November 22, 1963, President Kennedy was **assassinated** while driving through Dallas, TX

- Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in and promised to **honor** Kennedy by passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964

- Civil Rights Act of **1964** made segregation **illegal** all across America in public places and created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to prevent job discrimination

Fighting for Voting Rights

- Civil Rights Act of 1964 made it illegal to use different standards or requirements for blacks and whites to **vote**

- In 1964, the **24th** Amendment was also passed making it illegal for states to require a **poll** tax

- The SNCC group organized a voting drive called Freedom **Summer** and pushed for stronger voting laws to encourage blacks to vote

- SNCC organized a black voter registration drive in **Mississippi** in the summer of 1964

- Volunteer college students were beaten, bombed and murdered during the voter registration drive but were able to add 1,200 new **black** voters that summer

- In early 1965, MLK, Jr. led a voter registration drive in Alabama but the volunteers were attacked by state police while crossing a bridge from **Selma** to Montgomery – which caused more **media** coverage and more national support for Civil Rights Movement
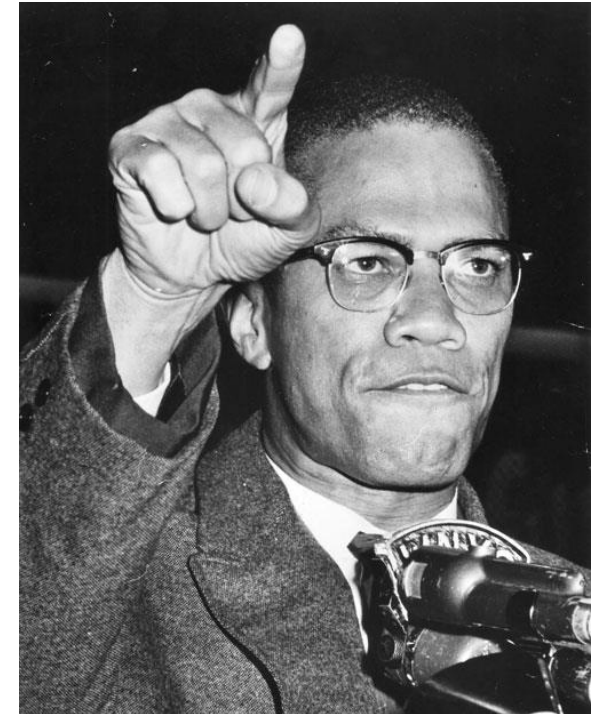
Voting Rights Act

- President Johnson tells Alabama Governor George **Wallace** that no more violence will be tolerated and uses the nation's anger about the attack to push the **voting** rights law through Congress

- August 6, 1965, President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act into law which **bans** all forms of **discrimination** in voting and sends government officials to register new voters – within weeks, black voters increased from 10% to 60% in **Alabama**
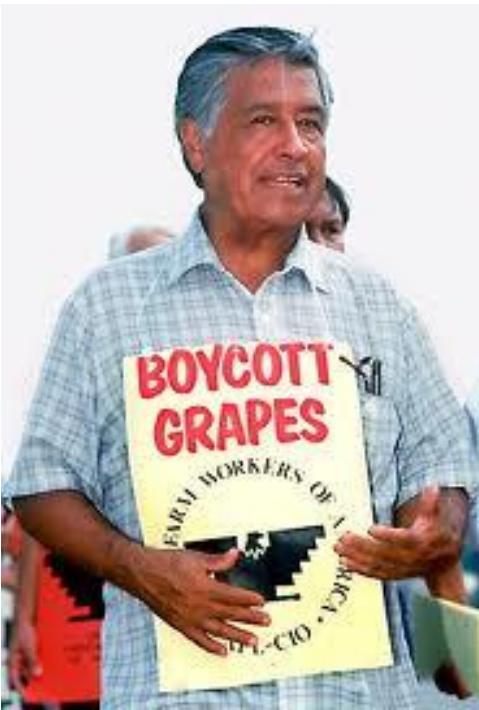
What's Next?

- Some major civil rights laws were passed and victories were won, but the civil rights leaders **disagreed** on what to do next

- MLK, Jr. and the SCLC moved their protests **north** to end discrimination but were largely unsuccessful which led to frustration and 164 **riots** across the U.S., although MLK, Jr. tried to encourage others to continue

- MLK, Jr. was assassinated in Tennessee on April 4, **1968**

- The loss of Dr. King was devastating for the civil rights movement

- In the 1960s, **SNCC** kicked out their white members choosing to follow a militant "black power" leader named **Stokely** Carmichael

- **Malcolm** X became a popular leader of the Nation of Islam group before leaving the group to promote **peace** between races

- Malcolm X was assassinated by a Nation of Islam member in **1965**

Equal Rights Struggle Expands

- The African American struggle for equal rights inspired other **minority** groups to fight for equality

- César **Chávez** (born in Yuma, AZ in 1927) started a farm workers **union** in 1962 but the farm owners refused to recognize the union until they brought up Martin Luther King, Jr.'s example

- Chávez urged farm workers to go on **strike** and the **public** not to buy products from non-union workers

- The strike worked and resulted in higher **wages** and new **benefits** for the farm workers

Mexican Americans Organize

- Mexican Americans followed César Chávez's lead and formed the group La Raza **Unida** (The United People) in 1970

- La Raza Unida fought to get Mexican Americans better **jobs**, higher pay, better **education**, better housing and worked on getting Mexican Americans **elected** to public office

- Mexican American students also began to organize for better school facilities, more Mexican American **culture**-based classes and teachers

- Although many of the student protesters were arrested at first, by the end 1970s, many of their **demands** had been met

Hispanic Diversity

- The many different backgrounds and cultures of **Hispanics** made it difficult to achieve **unity** and fight for a single cause

- Hispanics trace their roots to Spanish-speaking countries and cultures, but there are also many **differences** between them such as:
  - Some are concerned about citizenship and **immigration** (Mexican Americans and Latinos) but not Puerto Ricans
  - Cubans are more **conservative** due to escaping Communism than others are
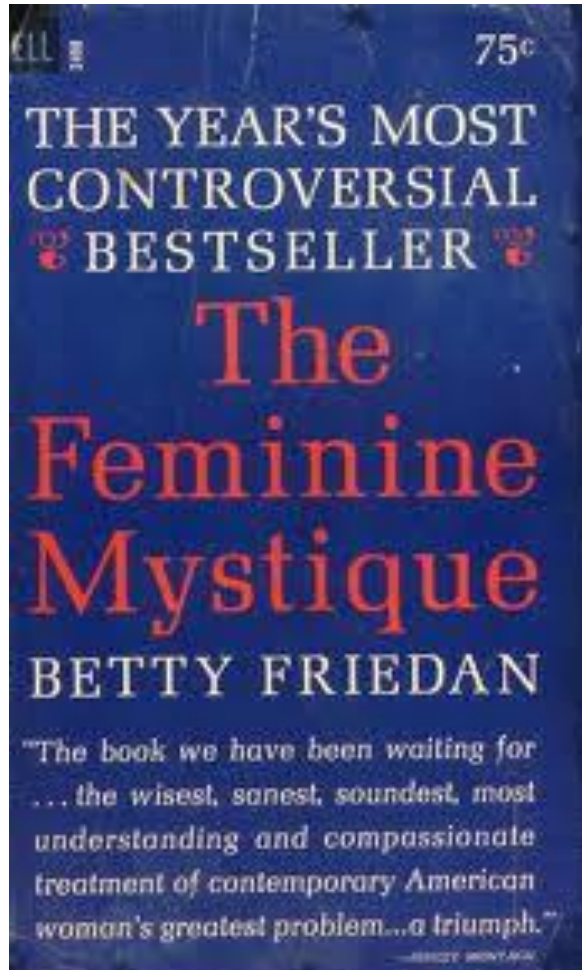
Native Americans Unite

- Native Americans also had a difficult time **agreeing** on a cause to fight for, but in the 1950s, they all agreed to fight against the "**termination** policy"
  - Termination policy (**1953**) - The U.S. government began to terminate the federal **protections** of land and other resources of the Native American tribes

- The National Congress of American Indians (**NCAI**) was formed in 1944 to promote the "**common** welfare" of Native Americans and led the protests against the termination policy, which ended in 1958

- The success of the protests led to a new generation of Native Americans activists willing to **fight** for their rights

Native American Success

- In 1968, the American Indian Movement (**AIM**) was founded and was more aggressive in demanding rights for people on **reservations** and recognition of tribal laws

- In 1972, AIM members **occupied** the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. for a week and the leader, Russell **Means**, declared "We don't want civil rights in the white man's society – we want our own **sovereign** rights."

- In the early 1970s, Native Americans protested for more federal aid

- In 1975, the Indian Self-Determination Act was passed which gave tribal governments more **control** over social programs, law enforcement, and education

- Several court cases were won in the 1970s as well which gave back some of the **ancestral** land and water, hunting, and fishing rights

RUSSELL MEANS 1932-2012

AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT 1890 1973 REMEMBER WOUNDED KNEE

Women's Movement

- Women faced discrimination in the finding **jobs**, entering the **military**, becoming police officers, signing contracts, getting credit, selling **property**, etc.

- Women were encouraged to stay home once they were married and could get **fired** for getting pregnant

- Betty **Friedan** wrote a book called The Feminine Mystique that gave a voice to the concerns and **inequalities** that women faced

NOW and ERA

- Friedan's book inspired the formation of the National Organization for Women (**NOW**) which worked to get women good jobs and equal **pay** for their work

- Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972 (**ERA**) which outlawed discrimination based on sex

- The amendment was never **ratified** and added to the Constitution because it only received **35** state votes instead of the **38** it needed

- The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Higher Education Act of 1972 outlawed **discrimination** against women

- Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade* (**1973**) outlawed the banning of abortions by states

Counterculture

- **Rebellious** teens and college-aged students were part of the counterculture against mainstream society, known as **hippies**, were the baby boomers growing up

- Blaming the old-fashioned ways of their parents' generation for the social **injustices** in America, the threat of nuclear war, and the US's involvement in **Vietnam**, many became social activists and protestors fighting for a society based on peace and love

- Freedom and new experiences without the constraints of **mainstream** society became the goal of hippies, but many struggled with drug addiction, had no means of supporting themselves, and a lack of rules for their lifestyle often led to conflict

- The **effect** of the counterculture on society was a general relaxing of **rigid** mindsets on topics and a lasting impact on the music and art world with the four-day music festival in 1969, **Woodstock**, representing the high point of the counterculture movement

Major Civil Rights Reforms

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954)	• Declared segregated public schools **unconstitutional**
Civil Rights Act of 1957	• Established a federal Civil Rights Commission to **investigate** violations of civil rights • Created a civil rights division within the Justice Department to **enforce** civil rights laws • Authorized the federal government to **prosecute** anyone interfering with another person's right to vote
Executive Order 11063 (November 20, 1962)	• Banned racial and religious discrimination in **housing** built or purchased with federal aid
Civil Rights Act of 1964	• Banned discrimination **public** accommodations • Outlawed **unequal** voting requirements • Barred discrimination in **employment** based on race, gender, religion, or national origin • Established the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission • Applied federal power to **speed** integration of schools and other public facilities
Voting Rights Act of 1965	• Suspended literacy tests and other devices used to **exclude** black voters • Authorized federal supervision of voter registration • Allowed federal workers to **register** voters
Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act)	• Banned racial **discrimination** in the sale, rental, or financing of housing • Made harming civil rights workers a **federal** crime