

# Snapshot of America from 1945 through 1960s: Domestic and Foreign

↑ or ↓ = a quantity went up or down

↑\$ or ↓\$ = \$ spent went up or down

Issue	1945+	1950s	1960s (Right of   = Johnson)
National Debt		Deficits in 5 out of 8 years	1968 - \$25 B- largest since WWII
If born in 1945	Baby boomers are being born.	A Baby Boomer is 5 years of age in 1950	15 years of age in 1960
President	1945-1948 Harry S Truman -FDR dies (Democrat) 1948-1952 Reelected	1952-1956, 1956-1960 Dwight D. Eisenhower (Republican, but perhaps atypical)	1960-1963 John F. Kennedy (Democrat); 1963-1964, 1964-1968 L.B. Johnson (Dem Convention.)
<b>Foreign</b>	CIA established National Security Council established containment	J. Foster Dulles, Secretary of State Allen Dulles, CIA brinkmanship	Robert McNamara (Defense); Dean Rusk (State)
Latin America		Covert – Guatemala - fruit Cuba – Batista; then Communist Castro	Bay of Pigs – Ike’s plan; JFK’s disaster Cuban Missile Crisis
Europe	Partition of Germany; later Berlin blockade NATO established Marshall Plan	Hungary – no action	Berlin and the Wall
Middle East	Israel – war – recognition by Truman	Covert – Iran – Shah- oil (40%, 40%, 20%) Nassar – Israel	1967 6-Day War
Far East	Korea – partitioned at 38 parallel; later North invades South- start of the Korea War. China- Communist; Formosa-Nationalist Japan –US Occupied – Douglas MacArthur	Korea – ends war finally, stays split Vietnam – US does 78% of French Budget Vietnam – split and we aid the South \$1B	“Flexible Response”   Gulf of Tonking Buddhist   1967 Tet Offensive
Other		Ike’s farewell address “military industrial complex” Sputnick	Peace Corps (Exec. Order)   Test bans ↑\$ Space race   “Silent Majority”
<b>Domestic</b>			
Economy	Increased taxes Increased military spending	Highway ↑\$Military spending from 12.9B to 39.2B	“guns and butter”
Big Business	Prosperous	McDonald’s 1 <sup>s</sup> Holiday Inn 1 <sup>st</sup>	-
Labor	Taft-Hartley Act <sup>1</sup> - right to work state (careful of meaning)	Organize labor continues ↑ Minimum wage	OEO; ↑Immigration law ↑\$ Minimum wage
Age	Elvis Presley Sputnik and U.S. education Salk Vaccine	Elvis Presley Sputnik and U.S. education Salk Vaccine	↑\$ Social Security Beetles; Hippies
Gender	From Rosie the Riveter to wife as consumer	Consumerism and I Love Lucy	Betty Friedan; <i>The Feminine Mystique</i>
Race	Exec. Order: desegregate armed forces Jackie Robinson, integrates baseball Dixiecrats – political party	Rosa Parks, bus–Montgomery Boycott <i>Sweat v. Painter</i> <i>Brown v. Topeka Board of Education</i> ; Little Rock	Meridith – Univ. of Miss.   1965 Watts Freedom Riders   1966 B. Panthers TV coverage   Civil Rights Act
Other	Exec. Order: Loyalty Program <sup>2</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Red Scare – Senator Joe McCarthy Who stopped him: Edward R. Murrow, the Senate, Ike, TV coverage, the American people	Medicare, Medicaid, “War on Poverty” Thurgood Marshall Assassinations

## The Big Shift: 1945-1960

Br = Great Britain Fr= France USSR = Russia; Dem. = Democrat Rep = Republican

<sup>1</sup> Republicans’ purpose: to reduce membership in unions. (Note: voting patterns of union members.) Allowed states to make themselves “right-to-work” states (Reminder: closed and open shop)

<sup>2</sup> Attorney General (Tom Clark): communists “everywhere” - Congress: HUAC in 1946 alleged Communists in Treasury, Agriculture; 1947, “Hollywood Ten”

Date	Pres. Election/ Event	Beyond America	Foreign Policy	Government Institutions	US Eco. Dev.	Issue/Organization Dev.	Political Party Dev.
1945-11	Truman's background – Missouri/Pendergast	Reminder: Partition of Germany by 4 nations <sup>3</sup>	Nuremberg Trials <sup>4</sup> begin	Reminder: GI Bill of Rights <sup>5</sup>	Consumerism – pent up demands <sup>6</sup>		
1946-02, 03		Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech		Council of Eco. Advisors est.			
1946-08		Greece: Civil war. Br: Withdrawing	\$25M in credits				
1946-10		Korea: US/USSR at 38 <sup>th</sup>					
1946-11							Rep victories; 1 <sup>st</sup> control in 14 yrs.
1947-03	Exec. Order: Loyalty Prog. <sup>7</sup> Truman Doctrine						
1947-04+		Turkey: Soviet pressures on	Aid to Greece, Turkey			Jackie Robinson integrates baseball-white resistance	
1947-05		Occupied Japan: New Const. <sup>8</sup>					
1947-06			Marshall Plan		Taft-Hartley Act <sup>9</sup>		Fair Deal
1947-07				National Security Council; CIA, Dept. of Defense est. <sup>10</sup>	Increased taxes, spending <sup>11</sup>	Kennan, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , "containment"	
1947-09		Cominform est.					
1948-03, 05	President Truman – Israel, recognition	Czechoslovakia: coup/Soviet gains;					
1948-06, 08	Exec. Order: desegregation of armed forces	Berlin blockade <sup>12</sup>		Selective Service through 1951; Alger Hiss case begins			
1948-11	Thomas E. Dewey vs. Harry S Truman vs. J. Strom Thurmond					Trends – women as moms; African-Americans to North; affluent white suburbs ✓ <sup>13</sup>	Rep. increases Dixiecrat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party
1949		USSR: atomic weapon					
1949-01				Trial, Communist Party leaders			
1949-04		NATO est.					
1949-08					Min. wage \$.40 to \$.75		
1949-12		China: Nationalists to Taiwan	Acheson's NSC-68				
1950-01	Hydrogen bomb announced <sup>14</sup>			1950 <i>Sweatt v. Painter</i>		1950s -Revival of KKK; White Citizens Council est.	
1950-02				Joseph McCarthy – Wheeling, W.Va. speech <sup>15</sup>			
1950-06		Korea: North invades South					
1950-06-20	W/out Congress, sent troops						
1950-11		China: Joins Korea					Rep. increases
1951-02, 04	Removal of MacArthur			22 <sup>nd</sup> Amendment <sup>16</sup>			
1951-07		Korea: Negotiations begin					

<sup>3</sup> Partitioned under the control of 4 nations: United States, England, France (later combined into West Germany) and the Soviet Union (later East Germany)

<sup>4</sup> Japanese tried by an International Military Tribunal beginning 1946-01

<sup>5</sup> AKA Service Readjustment Act of 1944 – 4 major programs: education (GED to college), home loans at low interest, medical treatment, unemployment insurance

<sup>6</sup> Pent up demands from the Depression and World War II and--after initial shortages—greater availability of goods

<sup>7</sup> Attorney General (Tom Clark): communists "everywhere" - Congress: HUAC in 1946 alleged Communists in Treasury, Agriculture; 1947, "Hollywood Ten"

<sup>8</sup> Occupation ends in 1952 per Peace treaty with Japan signed by 49 nations.

<sup>9</sup> Republicans' purpose: to reduce membership in unions. (Note: voting patterns of union members.) Allowed states to make themselves "right-to-work" states (Reminder: closed and open shop)

<sup>10</sup> Combination of Departments of War and Navy = new name of the Defense Department

<sup>11</sup> Increased taxes (a trend until Reagan) and increased military spending (a continuing trend) and spending on highways and airports especially by the 1950s by the federal government and states.

<sup>12</sup> 1961, Soviets build wall between East, West Berlin. Future in 28 years: 1989-11, following opening of wall per Soviet decision, workers pulled down 1<sup>st</sup> section.

<sup>13</sup> White prosperity, but lack of it by others in America. Rise of suburbs. Limited roles for women. Migration of African Americans and other minorities to the North.

<sup>14</sup> US hydrogen bomb exploded 1952-11. Br: 1952-10, its first atomic weapon.

<sup>15</sup> McCarthy (2<sup>nd</sup> Red Scare) not stopped until Eisenhower's term - Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* (1953), Eisenhower, the Senate, Edward R. Murrow, and television (the primary communication)

<sup>16</sup> Presidency limited to 2 terms

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1952-11	Dwight D. Eisenhower vs. Adlai Stevenson						Nixon "Checkers speech"
1953	Secretary of State – John Foster Dulles; head of CIA-Allen Dulles		CIA covert action in Iran, reinstate Shah (Br plan)	Chief Justice Earl Warren appt. Chief Justice Earl Warren appt.			
1953				Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka <sup>17</sup>			
1953-03 and 04		USSR: Stalin dies		Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare est.			
1953-04-22-06-17				Televised McCarthy hearings			
1953-06	Speech <sup>18</sup>						
1953-07			Korea: Truce finally ends war				
1953-11	Speech <sup>19</sup>						
1954			Aid to Fr of \$3B over Vietnam			Elvis Presley begins career	
1954			CIA covert action in Guatemala, est. military dictatorship			Salk vaccine	
1954-05	Speech <sup>20</sup>	Vietnam: Fr defeat-Dien Bien Phu					
1954-12				Senate "condemned" McCarthy			
1955						1 <sup>st</sup> McDonald's and 1 <sup>st</sup> Holiday Inn est.	
1955-12						Montgomery Bus Boycott - Rosa Parks	
1956-06		Egypt: Nationalizes Suez			Federal Highway Act <sup>21</sup>		
1956-10		Israel: Invade Gaza/Sinai Br/Fr: retake Suez					
1956-10-11		USSR: Crush Hungarian Rev.					
1956-11	D. D. Eisenhower vs. Adlai Stevenson						Dem. Cong. majority
1957						SCLC <sup>22</sup> est.	
1957-09						Gov. Orval Faubus, Little Rock, AR; rioting by 9-23 <sup>23</sup>	
1957-09-24	Little Rock HS - Eisenhower						
1957-10-04		USSR: Sputnik					
1958-09 and 11		Quemoy bombing; Latin America Tour – Nixon <sup>24</sup>		National Defense Education Act			Dem. victories
1959-07		Cuba - Fidel Castro		NASA est.			
1960-05		USSR: Capture U-2, Gary Powers		Mil. spending: 1950 – 12.9B 1960 – 39.2 B			

<sup>17</sup> Desegregation of public schools will be slow for the next decades. In Washington, DC—desegregation of public facilities (parks, libraries, restaurants), but **not public schools.**

<sup>18</sup> Eisenhower indirectly against **Joseph McCarthy**: Against "book burners"

<sup>19</sup> Eisenhower indirectly against **Joseph McCarthy**: Right to meet "accuser face to face"

<sup>20</sup> Eisenhower indirectly against **Joseph McCarthy**: On "demagogues thirsty for personal power and public notice"

<sup>21</sup> Purpose: evacuation in the event of nuclear war

<sup>22</sup> SCLC = Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization of ministers across the South

<sup>23</sup> **AR National Guard** blocks black students; mob ("Lynch her!"). Eisenhower "reluctantly" sends in 1,000 paratroopers. VA, AK governors close schools. It will take years to stop.

<sup>24</sup> April-May – Nixon's tour in South America met by anti-US demonstrations in Peru and Venezuela. August – Red China renewal of bombardment of Quemoy and Matsu. October – cease-fire on both sides.

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1960-11	Richard M. Nixon v. <b>John F. Kennedy</b>					Televised debates	
1961-01	Ike's Farewell address						

The numbers on the national debt in each of the years are from a **prior** textbook, *Ayers American Passages*.

Issue	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000-2008	2008+
National Debt	Deficit 5 of 8 years	1968 -\$25 B – largest since WWII	\$74 B – end of Nixon and Carter 1971-wage freeze; off gold standard	▲ \$186B    ▲ \$156B	See matrix below.	<sup>25</sup>	
President	1952-1956, 1956-1960 Dwight D. Eisenhower	1960-1963 John F. Kennedy 1963-1964, 1964-1968 L.B. Johnson	1968-1972, 1972-08/1974 R.M. Nixon; 08/1974-1976 Gerald Ford; 1976-1980 Jimmy Carter	1980-1984, 1984-1988 Ronald Reagan  1988-1992 George H. Bush	1990-1992 - George H. Bush  1992-1996, 1996-2000 William Clinton	2000-2004, 2004-2008 George W. Bush	2008-2012, 2012-2016 – Barack Obama
If born in 1945	a Baby Boomer is 5 years of age in 1950	15 years of age in 1960	25 years of age in 1970	a Baby Boomer is 35 years of age in 1980	45 years of age in 1990	55 years of age in 2000	65 years of age in 2010

\$222B	\$297B	\$255B	\$203B	\$25B Notice that 1968 was the last time our debt was \$25B. - To lower the debt was a bipartisan effort.
1990	1992	1993	1994	1997

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<sup>25</sup> During the Bush term of 2000-2008, the TARP crisis occurred. There is a series of tax cuts; budget surplus of the 1990s is gone; there is a recession (dot-com bubble); record debt begins.