

# Snapshot 1945 through the 1960s: Foreign and Domestic

↑ or ↓ = a quantity went up or down

↑\$ or ↓\$ = \$ spent went up or down

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

<sup>1</sup> Examples: With vital industries, “cooling off” period. Allowed states to make themselves “right-to-work” states; done primarily by states in South and West who also encouraged movement of industry to those regions because of the law and lower wages. (Note: in the Great Depression and New Deal, organized labor traditionally voted Democratic.)

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

**WCJC Department:** History – Dr. Bibus  
**Contact Information:** 281.239.1577 or [bibusc@wcjc.edu](mailto:bibusc@wcjc.edu)  
**Last Updated:** 2017  
**WCJC Home:** <http://www.wcjc.edu/>