

Snapshot of America's Big Shift from 1945 through the 1960s: Foreign and Domestic

Tips: To learn more about an item in this—or any other—Snapshot, use Adobe's Find box (Ctrl-F) to locate information in the detailed information in the link.

↑ or ↓ = a quantity went up or down

↑\$ or ↓\$ = \$ spent went up or down

Issue	1945+	1950s	1960s	= Divides Presidencies
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) Vice-President Nixon – corruption charges - defense is “Republican cloth coat” and Checkers (a puppy)	1960 TV debate – JFK and R.M. Nixon 1960-1963 John F. Kennedy (Democrat); 1963-1964, 1964-1968 L.B. Johnson (Dem. Conventio.)	
Foreign	CIA established National Security Council established Containment and the Cold War	J. Foster Dulles, Secretary of State Allen Dulles, CIA Brinkmanship/domino theory and the Cold War	Robert McNamara (Defense); Dean Rusk (State) Trend: anti-Americanism and nationalism	
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 – Israel – ↑3 Xs size OPEC	
Far East	Japan –US Occupied – Douglas MacArthur China-Communist; Formosa (Taiwan)-Nationalist Korea – partitioned at 38 parallel; later North invades South- start of the Korea War (MacArthur)	Korea – ends war finally, stays split Vietnam – US does 78% of French Budget Vietnam – split and we aid the South \$1B	“Flexible Response” Buddhist Gulf of Tonkin 1967 Tet Offensive	
Other		Ike’s farewell address “military industrial complex” Sputnick	Peace Corps (Exec. Order) ↑\$ Space race, test ban treaty “Silent Majority”	
Domestic				
Economy	Increased taxes, Increased military spending Consumerism	Interstate highway system ↑\$Military spending from 12.9B to 39.2B		“guns and butter”
Big Business	Prosperous	McDonald’s 1 ^s Holiday Inn 1 st		
Labor	Taft-Hartley Act¹ - right to work state (careful of meaning)	Congressional hearings on some unions and racketeering. Example: “Jimmy” Hoffa. Increase in laws about unions. ↑ Minimum wage	↑\$ Minimum wage	OEO; ↑ Immigration law²
Age	Polio and this cohort Reminder: FDR	Elvis Presley Sputnik and U.S. education Salk Vaccine/Polio	↑\$ 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-later 1st sit-in <i>Sweat v. Painter</i> Brown v. Topeka Board of Education; Little Rock	Meridith – Univ. of Miss. 1965-03 Selma -05 Watts Freedom Riders 1966 B. Panthers TV coverage Civil Rights Act/Voting Rights Acts	
Other	Exec. Order: Loyalty Program ³	2nd Red Scare – Senator Joe McCarthy (R.M. Nixon) Who stopped him?: Edward R. Murrow, the Senate, Ike, TV coverage, and the American people	Medicare, Medicaid, “War on Poverty” Thurgood Marshall, Head Start Assassinations	

¹ 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.)

² **This 1965 act replaced the Immigration Act of 1924.** In 1924, the law set up national-origin quotas based on the nationalities in the United States in **1890**—predominantly from northern and western Europe. After 1890, the new immigration came from southern Europe—Italy and Poland.

³ Attorney General (Tom Clark): communists “everywhere” ver - Congress: HUAC (**R.M. Nixon**) in 1946 alleged Communists in Treasury, Agriculture; 1947, “Hollywood Ten”

