

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
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 TV debate – JFK and R.M. Nixon 1960-1963 John F. Kennedy (Democrat) 1963-1964, 1964-1968 L.B. Johnson (Dem Convention.)
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)
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" Gulf of Tonkin Buddhist 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 Act ¹ - 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 ² ↑\$ Minimum wage
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 <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/Voting Rights Acts
Other	Exec. Order: Loyalty Program ³	2 nd Red Scare – Senator Joe McCarthy (R.M. Nixon)	Medicare, Medicaid, "War on Poverty"

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" - Congress: HUAC (R.M. Nixon) in 1946 alleged Communists in Treasury, Agriculture; 1947, "Hollywood Ten"

		Who stopped him: Edward R. Murrow, the Senate, Ike, TV coverage, the American people	Thurgood Marshall Assassinations
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Details (with footnotes) about the Big Shift: 1945-1960s

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

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 ⁴	Nuremberg Trials ⁵ begin	Reminder: GI Bill of Rights ⁶	Consumerism – pent up demands ⁷		
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 th					
1946-11							Rep victories
1947-03	Exec. Order: Loyalty Prog. ⁸ Truman Doctrine						
1947-04+		Turkey: Soviet pressures on	Aid to Greece, Turkey			Jackie Robinson integrates baseball-white resistance	
1947-05		Occupied Japan: New Const. ⁹					
1947-06			Marshall Plan		Taft-Hartley Act ¹⁰		Fair Deal
1947-07				National Security Council; CIA, Dept. of Defense est. ¹¹	Increased taxes, spending ¹²	Kennan, Foreign Affairs, "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 ¹³		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 ▼ ¹⁴	Rep. increases Dixiecrat 3 rd 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 ¹⁵			1950 <i>Sweatt v. Painter</i>		1950s -Revival of KKK; White Citizens Council est.	
1950-02				Joseph McCarthy – Wheeling, W.Va. speech ¹⁶			
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 nd Amendment ¹⁷			
1951-07		Korea: Negotiations begin					

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

⁵ Japanese tried by an International Military Tribunal beginning 1946-01

⁶ AKA Service Readjustment Act of 1944 – 4 major programs: education (GED to college), home loans at low interest, medical treatment, unemployment insurance

⁷ Pent up demands from the Depression and World War II and--after initial shortages—greater availability of goods

⁸ Attorney General (Tom Clark): communists "everywhere" - Congress: HUAC in 1946 alleged Communists in Treasury, Agriculture; 1947, "Hollywood Ten"

⁹ Occupation ends in 1952 per Peace treaty with Japan signed by 49 nations.

¹⁰ 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)

¹¹ Combination of Departments of War and Navy = new name of the Defense Department

¹² Increased taxes (a trend until Reagan) + increased military spending (a continuing trend) and spending on highways and airports especially by the 1950s by the federal government and states.

¹³ 1961, Soviets build wall between East, West Berlin. Future in 28 years: 1989-11, following opening of wall per Soviet decision, workers pulled down 1st section.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ US hydrogen bomb exploded 1952-11. Br: 1952-10, its first atomic weapon.

¹⁶ McCarthy (2nd 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)

¹⁷ Presidency limited to 2 terms

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 ¹⁸			
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 ¹⁹						
1953-07			Korea: Truce finally ends war				
1953-11	Speech ²⁰						
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 ²¹	Vietnam: Fr defeat-Dien Bien Phu					
1954-12				Senate "condemned" McCarthy			
1955						1 st McDonald's and 1 st Holiday Inn est.	
1955-12						Montgomery Bus Boycott - Rosa Parks	
1956-06		Egypt: Nationalizes Suez			Federal Highway Act ²²		
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 ²³ est.	
1957-09						Gov. Orval Faubus, Little Rock, AR; rioting by 9-23 ²⁴	
1957-09-24	Little Rock HS - Eisenhower						
1957-10-04		USSR: Sputnik					
1958-09 and 11		Latin America Tour – Nixon ²⁵		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			

¹⁸ 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.**

¹⁹ Eisenhower indirectly against **Joseph McCarthy**: Against "book burners"

²⁰ Eisenhower indirectly against **Joseph McCarthy**: Right to meet "accuser face to face"

²¹ Eisenhower indirectly against **Joseph McCarthy**: On "demagogues thirsty for personal power and public notice"

²² Purpose: evacuation in the event of nuclear war

²³ SCLC = Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization of ministers across the South

²⁴ **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.

²⁵ April-May – Nixon's tour in South America - anti-US demonstrations in Peru and Venezuela

1960-11	Richard M. Nixon v. John F. Kennedy - backgrounds					FDA – birth control	New Frontier
1961-01	Ike's Farewell address						
1961-early	Exec. order: Peace Corps	USSR: Yuri Gagarin orbits ²⁶	CIA covert: Bay of Pigs			CORE freedom riders ²⁷	
1961-late			Khrushchev, JFK meet				
1961-08,09		USSR: Berlin Wall est.			End segregated terminals ²⁸		
1962, 1963						Books changing America ²⁹	
1962-09			Cuba: Soviet missiles			James Meredith, Ole Miss	
1962-10	Troops/federalize Guard		US: Cuba blockade				
1963-04 through 06		S. Vietnam: Buddhist protests				Cesar Chavez, United Farm Workers est.	
						Bull Conner – M.L. King³⁰	
						Wallace–Univ. of Alabama	
1963-07		US/USSR: hotline est.					
1963-08			Test Ban Treaty			March on Washington; King's "I Have a Dream"	
1963-09	Vietnam = "their war" ³¹						
1963-11	Assassination; LBJ president	S. Vietnam: coup; Diem dead					
1964-06						Murder by KKK ³²	
1964-07						Racial problems in North ³⁴	Divisive Rep. Conv.
1964-08	1 st , bombing of N. Vietnam		2 nd , Gulf of Tonkin Resolution		Economic Opportunity Act ³⁵	College students and the draft ³⁶ - Hippies ▼	Fannie Lou Hamer, MS Freedom Dem. Party
1964-11	Barry Goldwater vs. L.B. Johnson - backgrounds			24 th Amendment ³⁷			Great Society; War on Poverty begins
1965-03						Selma March; deputies/ state police attack	
1965-08				Voting Rights Act; Medicare/Medicaid est.		Watts (Los Angeles) riot ³⁸	
1965-10				Immigration law – no "national origins" quota ³⁹			
1966						National Org. for Women	
1966-10				Dept. of Transportation est.			
1967-06		Six Day War					
1968-01		Tet offensive				<i>Hair</i> ⁴⁰	
1968-03-12							E. McCarthy NH primary
1968-03-31	Withdrew candidacy						
1968-04						Assassination-M.L. King⁴¹	

²⁶ US commitment to manned moon landing - US: Alan Shepherd, suborbital flight; John Glenn orbits.

²⁷ Congress of Racial Equality est. 1942

²⁸ To deal with the violence against the freedom riders, ban on segregated terminals for interstate carriers

²⁹ Authors in 1962: Michael Harrington, *The Other America*; Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*. Authors in 1963: James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*; **Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique***.

³⁰ "**Letter from Birmingham City Jail**" written by Martin Luther King

³¹ Televised interview Sept 02 with President Kennedy; refers to the Vietnamese conflict as "their war."

³² Mississippi voter registration attempts; white mobs; firebombing; KKK/police murder civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goldman, Michael Schwerner (last 2 from North and white).

³³ Equal Employment Opportunities Commission est.; Title VII – race, creed, **sex**, and national origin. – **Opposed by candidate Barry Goldwater** – a more complex individual than this one issue.

³⁴ Disturbances in Harlem, Rochester (NY); Philadelphia (PA), Paterson (NJ)

³⁵ Job Corps, Neighborhood Youth Corps, VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America); food stamps, Head Start.

³⁶ College was a way to avoid going to fight in Vietnam—and not everyone went to college.

³⁷ Poll tax banned

³⁸ Watts lasts from 8/11 to 8/16. Later riots include 1966-07 Chicago (IL); 1967-07 Newark (NJ), Detroit (MI). Black power events include new militancy of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); rise of Black Muslim leader Malcolm X, later assassinated by that group (1965); Black Panthers in CA.

³⁹ Shift in immigration from traditional areas to coming from Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico; India, Korea, Philippines, Taiwan.

⁴⁰ The counterculture movement is converted to a popular Broadway play.

1968-06						Assassination-R. Kennedy	
1968-08							TV - Divisive Dem. Conv., Chicago

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.	42	
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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⁴¹ Riots in over 100 cities

⁴² 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.