

UNIT #5: 1945 TO THE PRESENT
THE UNITED STATES AS A SUPERPOWER, 1945-PRESENT

Things to Know:

1. Cold War policy

- relations with the USSR—containment, brinkmanship, collective security (United Nations and NATO), summit conferences, detente
- arms race and arms limitations

2. Cold War events

- Europe—NATO vs. Warsaw Pact, status of Berlin, Hungarian uprising, Prague Spring, “fall of communism”
- Asia—”loss of China,” Korean War, Nixon and China, U. S.-Japan trade issues
- Middle East—Suez crisis, relations with Israel, oil and Islamic fundamentalism
- Western Hemisphere—Alliance for Progress, Organization of American States, Cuba and Central America, Panama Canal

3. Vietnam

- U. S. Involvement, 1954-1975—policies of Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford
- significant military events—Tet offensive, bombing of North Vietnam, Cambodia
- negotiating peace settlement

KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS

San Francisco Conference
Central Intelligence Agency
Marshall Plan
Berlin airlift
Warsaw Pact
Korean War
Secretary of State John Foster Dulles
SEATO
CENTO
ANZUS
Suez crisis
U-2 incident
Bay of Pigs invasion
Cuban missile crisis
Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
Berlin Wall
Peace Corps
Six-Day War
Yom Kippur War
Dien Bien Phu
Vietminh
Vietcong
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
Ho Chi Minh Trail
Tet offensive
My Lai massacre
Khmer Rouge
Paris Peace Accords
Henry Kissinger
Salvador Allende
SALT

ABM Treaty
OPEC
Arab oil embargo
Solidarity
Camp David Accords
Grenada invasion
Sandinistas/Contras
Iran/Contra
glasnost
perestroika

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Brinksmanship The policy associated with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles that stressed that Soviet aggression would be met by massive nuclear retaliation; Dulles was opposed to simply “containing” the USSR and wanted to liberate the countries under Soviet control.

Containment American foreign policy adopted after World War 2 to restrain the expansion of the Soviet Union. It was based on the belief that the USSR does not take risks and would back down if faced with determined opposition. The policy was developed by Foreign Service officer George Kennan in 1947.

Detente Policy toward the USSR developed by President Nixon and Henry Kissinger focused on easing tensions through negotiations, particularly on arms reductions—for example, the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT) in 1972.

Eisenhower Doctrine The United States was prepared to use force in the Middle East against aggression from any country controlled by the Soviet Union (1957).

Military-industrial complex In his farewell address in 1961, Eisenhower warned of the danger posed by a strong defense industry and the armed forces; despite his own background, Eisenhower wanted to control military spending.

Shuttle diplomacy Henry Kissinger’s diplomatic efforts in the Middle East in early 1974 led to the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the west bank of the Suez Canal and disengagement between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights.

Summit diplomacy Meetings between world leaders, usually the United States and the Soviet Union, to discuss bilateral issues and matters of mutual concern—for example, nuclear disarmament; the first summit conference took place in 1944 in Geneva.

Truman Doctrine In response to the Greek Civil War in 1947, the United States provided economic and military aid to both Greece and Turkey. The United States would support “free peoples” against armed minorities or outside pressure.

Vietnamization President Nixon’s policy of withdrawing troops from Vietnam and turning the fighting over to the South Vietnamese with massive amounts of American supplies.

CONTEMPORARY AMERICA, 1945-PRESENT

Things to know:

1. Domestic politics, 1945-1968
 - programs and legislation associated with the Fair Deal, Modern Republicanism, New Frontier, Great Society, New Federalism
 - Cold War at home—House un-American Activities Committee and McCarthyism
 - counter-culture of the 1950s and 1960s—Beat Generation and New Left
2. Domestic politics, 1968—present
 - new national issues—environment, energy policy, abortion, AIDS
 - domestic response to war in Vietnam
 - Watergate
 - economic policy—recession, inflation, supply-side economics, deficit, international trade
3. Civil rights movement
 - African-Americans—legislation, Supreme Court decisions, leaders and tactics
 - affirmative action vs. Reverse discrimination
 - issues of gender and race—feminism, Hispanics (immigration policy), Native Americans

KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS

GI Bill of Rights
Taft-Hartley Act
McCarran Act
HUAC
Alger Hiss case
Rosenbergs
Youngstown Sheet and Tube v. Sawyer
Adlai Stevenson
Senator Joseph McCarthy
AFL-CIO
Gideon v. Wainwright
Office of Economic Opportunity
War on Poverty
Medicare
Immigration Act of 1965
Jack Kerouac
Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)
Woodstock
Environmental Protection Agency
revenue sharing
energy crisis
WIN
Kent State
hippies
Chicago Democratic Convention (1968)
CREEP
Reagonomics
Rosa Parks
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Civil Rights Act of 1964
Voting Rights Act of 1965
black power
Black Muslims

Vocab cont. on back→

Elijah Muhammad
Malcolm X
Bakke v. Board of Regents
National Organization for Women (NOW)
Betty Friedan
ERA
Gloria Steinem
Roe v. Wade
Cesar Chavez
United Farm Workers (UFW)
American Indian Movement
Wounded Knee
Desert Storm
Colin Powell
Norman Schwarzkopf

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Baby boom The significant increase in the birth rate from 1946 through 1957; the rise in population contributed to the growth of the suburbs, consumer culture, and the sharp increase in college enrollments in the 1960s.

Dixiecrats Southern Democrats who bolted the party following the adoption of a civil rights plank at the 1948 convention; ran Strom Thurmond as their candidate in 1948 as the States' Rights party.

Fair Deal President Truman's domestic policy (1948) that included civil rights and an extension and enlargement of the New Deal—health insurance, federal aid to education, public housing, and repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Great Society President Johnson's domestic program that included Medicare, civil rights legislation, the War on Poverty; funding for the programs suffered because of the costs of the Vietnam War.

Modern Republicanism Represented by President Eisenhower, it combined acceptance of the basic features of the New Deal with a conservative economic policy, particularly controlling government spending.

New Federalism President Nixon's program to return power and tax dollars to the states and cities; the key aspect was revenue sharing, which distributed \$30 billion in revenues to the states.

Stagflation High inflation combined with high unemployment and a declining gross national product; used to describe economic condition of the country in the mid-1970s.

Supply-side economics President Reagan's economic policy; reduction in taxes would give people more spendable income and in turn lead to business expansion and more jobs. The policy did increase the federal deficit.

Warren Court Under Chief Justice Earl Warren (1953-1969), an activist Supreme Court became an important instrument of social and political change, particularly in the areas of civil rights and civil liberties.