**Period 8 Overview: 1945-1980**



**Overview** In 1945, the United States emerged from World War II with the world's largest and strongest economy. Despite fears of a return to an economic depression, Americans were happy to get back to civilian life. Suburbanization, prosperity, and conformity during the 1950’s soon gave way to a growing civil rights movement and an unpopular war in Vietnam, foreshadowing a period of turbulence, protest, and disillusionment. What no one could predict was how the fall of colonial empires, the spread of Communism, technological changes, a growing conservative impulse, and an emerging global economy would impact American lives in the future.

***Beginning*** ***=*** *Victory* *in* *World* *War* *II* *and* *the* *rise* *of* *America* *as* *a* *global* *superpower*

***What*** ***do*** ***I*** ***need*** ***to*** ***know?***

**1.** **The** **various** **methods** **used** **to** **try** **to** **CONTAIN** **(George** **Kennan)** **Communism**

**a.** Examples: Truman Doctrine ($ to Greece and Turkey), Marshall Plan ($ to European countries to rebuild), NATO (first permanent peacetime alliance), Korean War (United Nations), Vietnam War

**2.** **The** **relation** **between** **U.S** **and** **the** **Soviet** **Union** **fluctuated** **between** **hostility** **and** **“détente”**

a. **Examples** **of** **conflict**: Berlin Blockade & Airlift, Warsaw Pact, NSA­‐68, Mutually Assured Destruction, Cuban Missile Crisis, U­‐2 Crisis, Korean War, Vietnam War

b. **Examples** **of** **détente**: Geneva Convention, United Nations, SALT Treaties, Nixon goes to China

**3.** **Ways** **the** **U.S.** **supported** **undemocratic** **governments,** **so** **long** **as** **they** **were** **not** **Communist**

a. CIA in Iran and Guatemala, Support for the Diem regime in Vietnam, support for Augusto Pinochet in Chile

**4.** **Cold** **War** **led** **to** **conflict** **at** **home** **between** **liberty** **&** **order,** **war** **&** **peace**

a. Examples:

i. **Order** **vs.** **Liberty**: 2nd Red Scare (compare/contrast to 1920’s Red Scare), HUAC, McCarthyism, Alger Hiss, Rosenbergs

ii. **Arms** **Race** **&** **Space** **Race**: Ike’s “Military/Industrial Complex”, Sputnik, NASA, increase $ for science education, H­‐Bomb

**iii.** **Rise** **of** **anti­‐war** **Movement:** Anti­‐Vietnam War 1968, Tet Offensive, Bombing Cambodia, My Lai Massacre, college protests (Kent State, Berkeley, Michigan St.)

**5.** **The** **Supreme** **Court’s** ***Brown*** ***vs.*** ***Board*** **of** **Education** **decision** **in** **1954** **began** **the** **Civil** **Rights** **movement** **while** **also** **leading** **white** **southerners** **to** **close** **ranks** **around** **their** **racial** **order**

a. Examples: *Brown* *v.* *Board*, Montgomery Bus Boycott 1955­‐56, Freedom Riders 1961, Freedom Summer 1964

b. How federal government acted to encourage an end to Jim Crow

i. **Executive** **Branch**: Truman desegregates military 1948, LBJ’s Great Society

ii. **Legislative:** Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act 1965

iii. **Judicial**: *Brown* *vs.* *Board* Warren Court expanded rights of the accused (liberal court)

iv. **Southern** **White** **Reaction**: Closed ranks/white supremacy: Southern Manifesto, Little Rock 9, “Solid South”, George Wallace “Segregation Now, Segregation Forever”, KKK (3rd Gen)

**6.** **The** **Civil** **Rights** **Movement** **was** **radicalized** **after** **1968** **deaths** **of** **RFK** **and** **Martin** **Luther** **King,** **Jr.**

a. Stokely Carmichael, “Black Power”, Malcolm X, Black Panther

Party

**7.** **Other** **minority** **groups** **were** **inspired** **by** **the** **success** **of** **the** **Civil**

**Rights** **Movement** **and** **pressed** **for** **their** **own** **freedom** **and** **equality**

a. Examples: Cesar Chavez/Mexican Americans, La Raza, LGBT (Stonewall Riot­‐NYC), American Indian Movement (AIM), Women’s Rights (ERA, Feminine Mystique, National Organization for Women, *Roe* *vs.* *Wade*,)

**8.** **Liberalism** **under** **the** **Great** **Society** **(LBJ)** **continued** **to** **expand** **the** **power** **of** **the** **federal** **government** **(Connect** **to** **Progressive** **Era** **and** **New** **Deal)**

a. Examples: Medicare, Medicaid, Poverty programs (Head Start, Job Corps) Civil Rights Act 1964, Voting Rights Act 1965, Immigration Act of 1965 ended Quotas

**9.** **How** **the** **Great** **Society,** **Warren** **Court** **decisions,** **Hippie** **Movement,** **Social** **change,** **and** **rise** **in** **sexual** **and** **drug** **experimentation** **led** **to** **a** **rise** **in** **CONSERVATIVE** **politics** **(Barry** **Goldwater­‐1964,** **Nixon­‐1968,** **Reagan­‐** **1980)**

***END=*** *Election* *of* *Ronald* *Reagan* *in* *1980* *&* *rise* *of* *conservative* *revolution*

**Period Perspectives** At home, Americans enjoyed a robust economic growth through the 1960s with little competition, as the rest of world's economies recovered from the war. Democrats, expanding on the New Deal, enacted major domestic programs, such as Medicare, aid to education, and civil rights for African Americans and women. The Cold War against Communist governments dominated U.S. foreign policy. While the threat of the use of nuclear weapons kept the great powers from attacking each other, limited "hot" wars in Korea and Vietnam cost America more than 100,000 lives. By the late 1960s, frustration over the Vietnam War, growing opposition to liberal domestic programs such as civil rights, and increased civil unrest weakened the Democratic majority, which slowly gave way during the 1970s to a conservative resurgence in 1980.

**Alternate View** Historians debate when postwar prosperity and optimism gave way to pessimism and a declining standard of living for many Americans. Some identify 1968, a year of assassinations, riots, and intense conflict over the Vietnam War as a turning point. Others point to the mid-l970s, when wage growth stagnated for many average Americans.

