

The Postwar Dream

America in the Decades Following
World War II.

1945-the Early 60s

Agenda

- Quiz over 19.1
- Discussion of the Postwar Economic Boom.

Learning Targets

- I can explain how America readjusted and recovered from WWII. (specifically GI Bill, suburbs, economic boom, and baby boom, etc.)
- I can compare the administrations of Truman and Eisenhower.
- I can evaluate the nations handling of civil right issues through a discussion of Jackie Robinson, the Dixiecrats, and Brown vs. Board of Ed.)

Quiz

1. What was the GI Bill of Rights?
2. What new style of housing development became popular after the war?
3. Describe one civil rights issue from the section.

The GI Bill of Rights

- What do we do with returning soldiers?
 - Education
 - Housing
 - How does this help?



The Rise of Suburbs

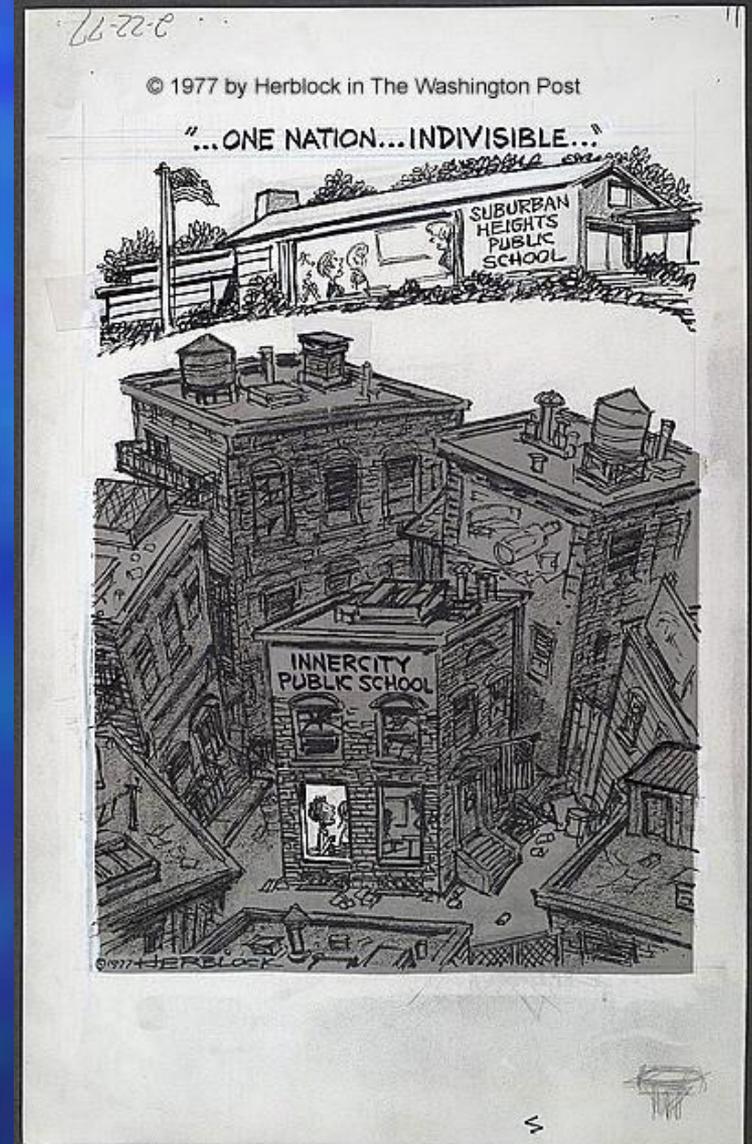
- How do we solve the housing shortage?
- Assembly line style construction:
 - Cheap
 - Fast
 - Planned communities





The Cost of the suburbs?

- "White Flight"
 - Suburbs+highways
- Inner City Poverty
- Urban Renewal
 - National Housing Act of 1949
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)



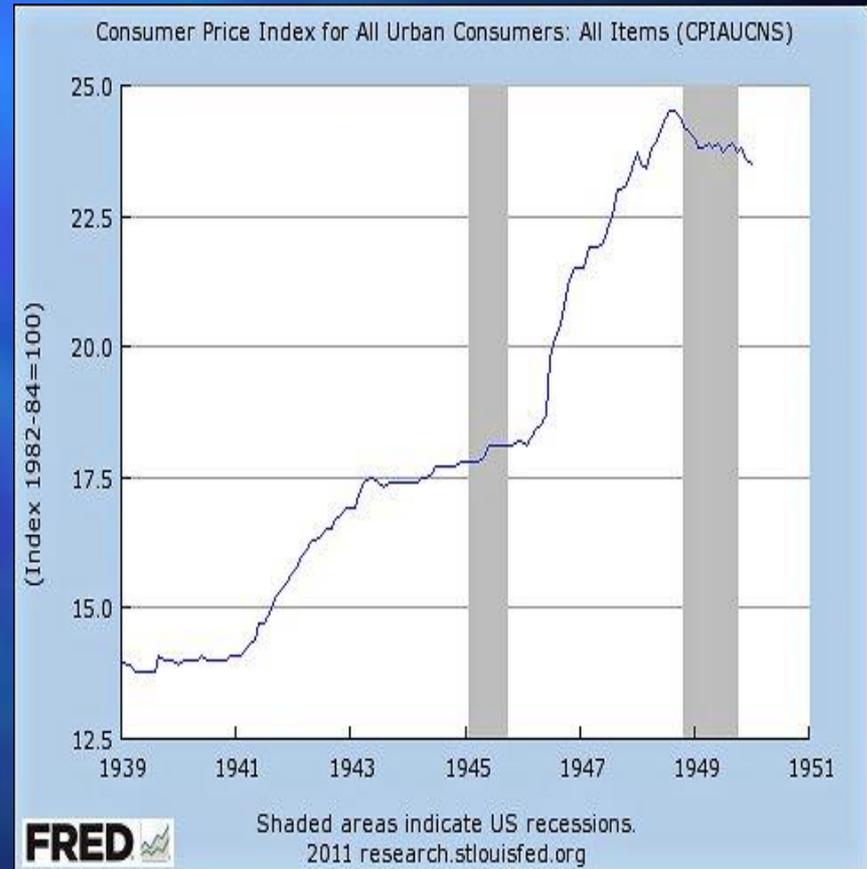
The New Family

- Most women left their wartime job.
- The Nuclear Family
- Efforts to reinforce “traditional roles.”



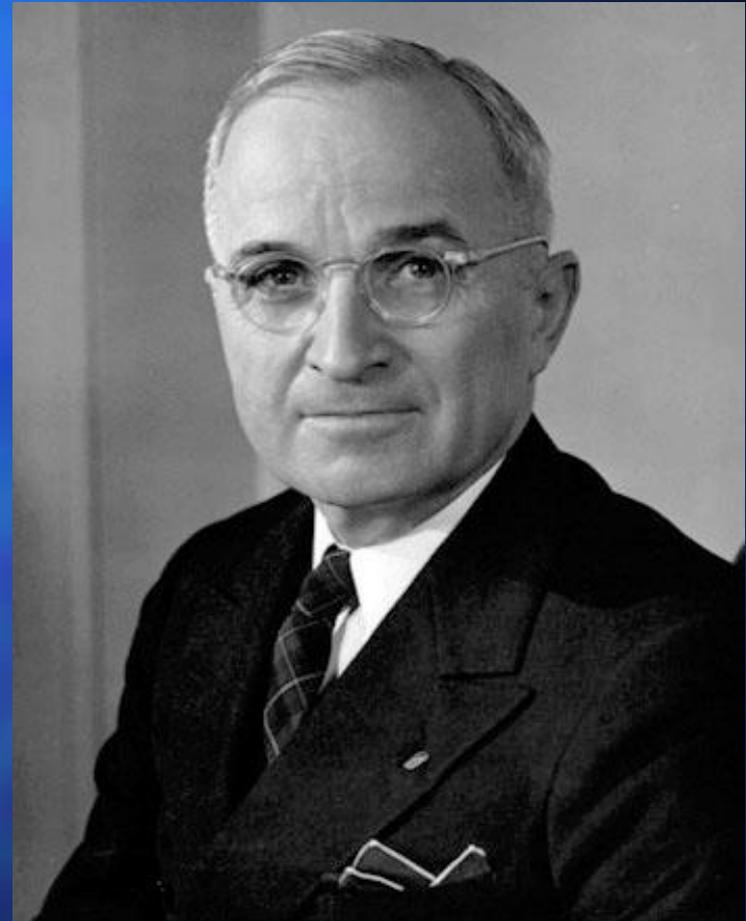
Economic Recovery

- Adjustments away from gov't controls are tricky.
- Massive inflation and shortages.
- Pent-up demand prevents depression.
- We had \$135 Billion saved up and couldn't spend it fast enough.



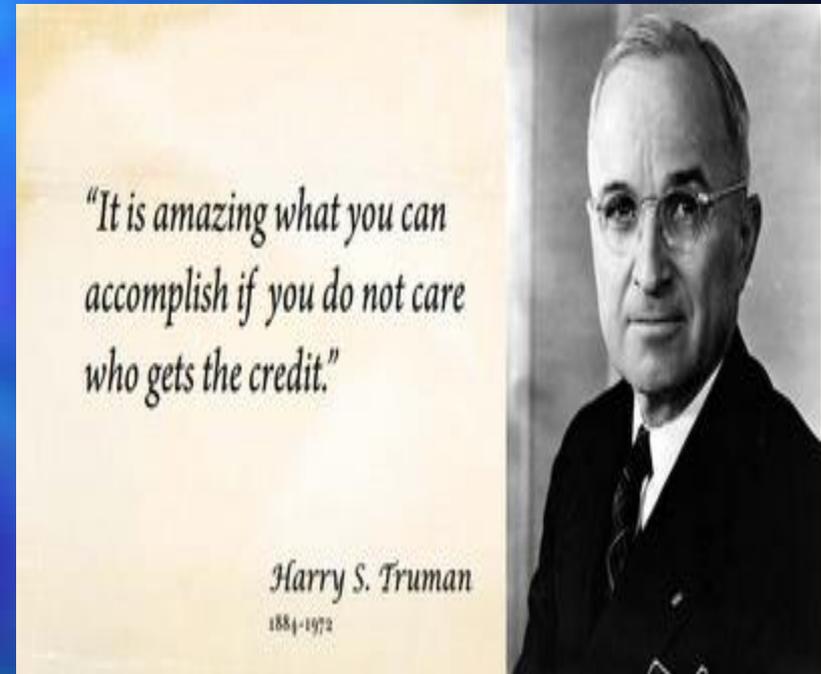
The Truman Years

- Struggled with massive labor strikes.
- Supported Civil Rights.
 - Fought Congress for new legislation.
 - Desegregated military.



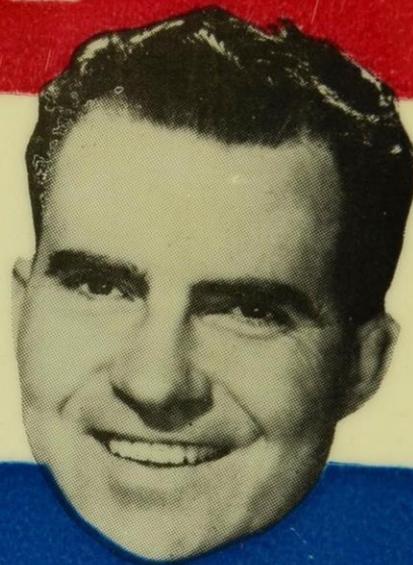
(Still Truman)

- Lost southern Democrats in '48 over race issues. (Dixiecrats)
- Fair Deal
 - National Health care (lost)
 - Almost doubled min. wage, expanded social security, and started housing projects.





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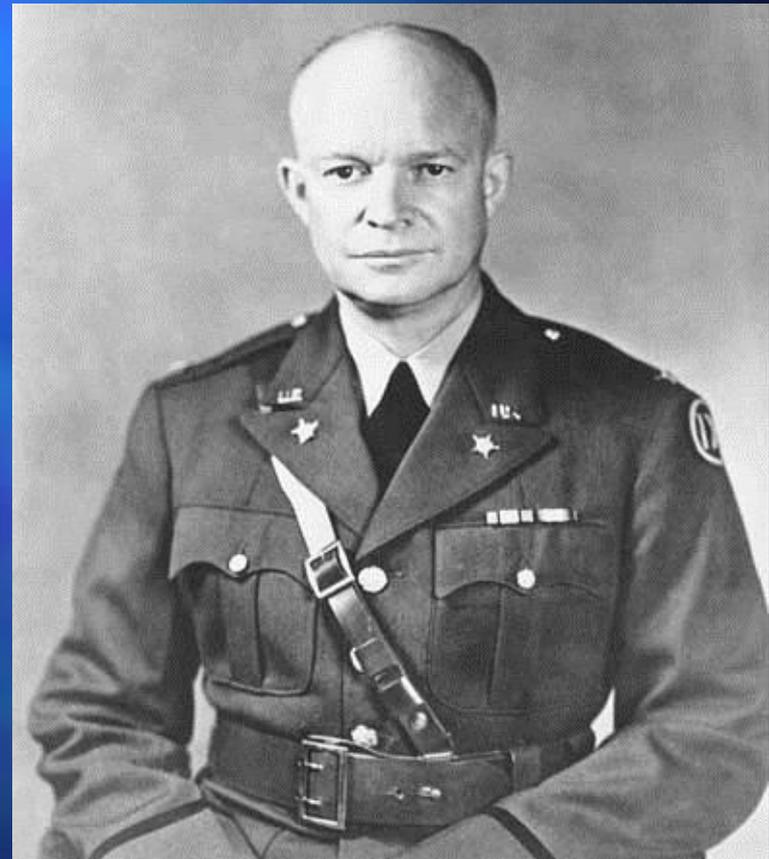
EISENHOWER

NIXON

VOTE
REPUBLICAN

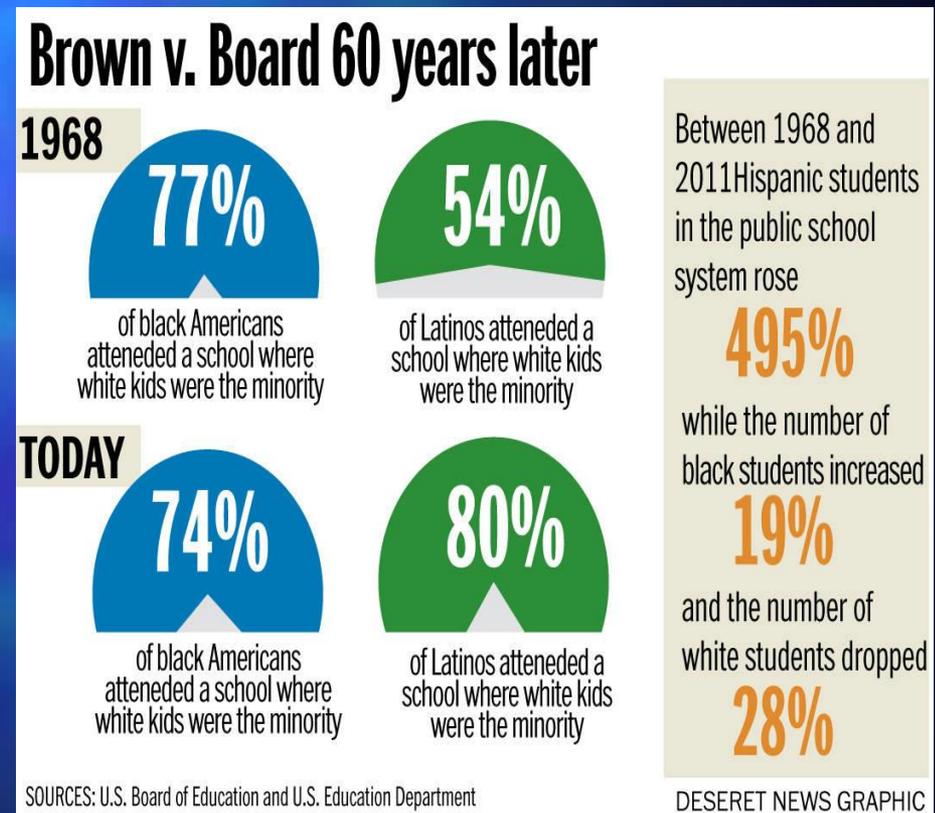
The Eisenhower Years

- Democrats viewed as “weak against communism.”
 - China
 - Korea
- Republicans run Eisenhower/Nixon
 - Fiscally conservative, socially liberal



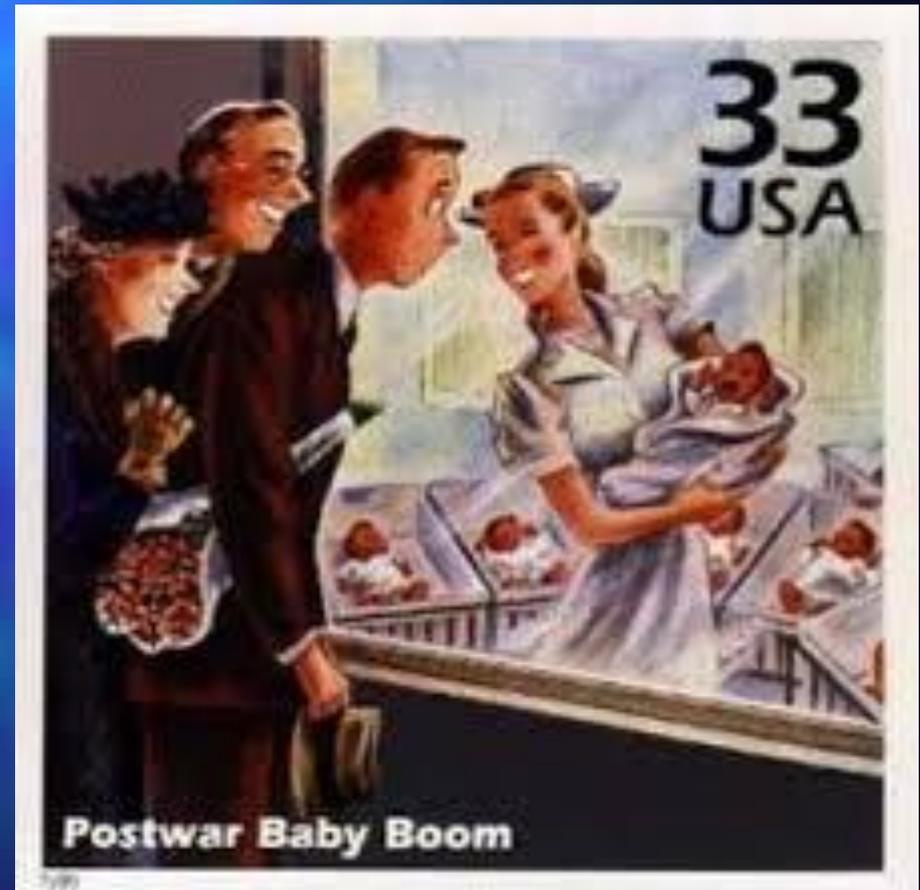
Brown vs. The Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas

- 1954
- NAACP had been legally challenging segregation, winning small victories.
- What was the logic?
- Why does it matter?
- What is the historical impact?



The Baby Boom

- Why?
- How did this affect America at the time?
- How does it still affect us today?



Car Culture

- Why such a automobile boom?
- The Interstate Highway system.
- How did American life begin to revolve around the car?



The Rise of Consumerism

- Why?
- New Products
- “Planned Obsolescence”
- Credit
- Advertising

Gender Roles

- After WWII, there was a push to “refeminize” women, and secure masculinity for men.
- How?
- What impact does this have?



You mean a woman can open it?