**Unit III: WWII and Early Cold War**

**Isolationist vs. Interventionist-**

* At first, America was neutral in WW II
* Nazi victories & Allied defeats began changing the minds of many people about America’s role
* Also, the Tripartite Pact formed between Japan, Germany, and Italy, agreed to come to the defense of the others in order to keep the US out of war
* Franklin Roosevelt passed a draft, and increased national defense spending to prepare for war
* The attack on Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941) caused the US to join WW II

**Mobilization for WWII-**

* Eager Americans were ready to volunteer for military service
* Selective Service System expanded the draft to provide 10 million soldiers
* Women’s Auxiliary Army corps (WAAC)- women volunteers serving in noncombat positions
* Mexican Americans, African-Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans all volunteered
* Factories converted to war production, shipyards and defense plants expanded
* 6 million women and 2 million minorities were hired for industrial work
* Office of Scientific Research and Development brought scientists into the war effort to develop new technologies
* Federal government takes control to prevent another depression
	+ Office of Price Administration- fought inflation by freezing wages, prices, and rents
	+ War Production Board- ensured armed forces and war industries received vital resources
	+ Rationing-limited consumption of certain goods (to aid war effort)

**Lend-Lease Act-** US could ship arms and supplies, without immediate payment to nations fighting the Axis powers

**Pearl Harbor-**

* Japan wanted to unite East Asia under its control by seizing colonial lands
* British couldn’t block them because they were fighting Hitler
* US started an embargo on oil to Japan
* Hideki Tojo met with emperor Hirohito to promise peace with Americans but he ordered navy to prepare an attack on the US
* US decoded secret messages from Japan that Japan was preparing for a strike
* December 7, 1941, Japanese dive-bombers attacked USA’s largest naval base in Pacific
* 180 Japanese warplanes followed and for 1 ½ hours, they weren’t disturbed by the USA
* Dec. 8- declaration of war against Japan, Dec. 12- Germany and Italy declare war on USA
* attack was partially due to FDR’s call for quarantine against Japan (oil embargo)
* America’s isolationist stance ended (although via Lend-Lease act, USA was interventionist)

**Changes on the Home Front-**

* Unemployment fell, weekly pay rose
* Crop production increased because of good weather and farm machinery/fertilizer improvements
* Women got jobs during the war
* Mass migrations occurred, African Americans mainly moved out of the south
* Fathers would never be home and mothers couldn’t take care of children on their own so they would be left home alone or with baby-sitters. When fathers did come home, there were painful periods of time of readjustment
* Families were created as people rushed to get married before soldiers were shipped overseas
* GI Bill of Rights- provided education and training for veterans paid by the gov’t

**Japanese Internment-**

* Pearl Harbor caused a sense of fear and uncertainty against Japanese
* The War Department called for evacuation against Japanese in Hawaii, but that would have ruined the economy because they made up 37% of the population, so instead, 1% of Hawaii’s Japanese were forced to internment. or confinement
* President Roosevelt required the removal of people with Japanese ancestry in California, Washington, Oregon, and Arizona and were sent to camps for national security
* Japanese fought for justice and the Supreme Court decided it was justifiable because of military necessity
* Japanese American Citizens League wanted compensation for lost property of those sent to camps
* Congress spent $38 million for that purpose, less than a tenth of actual losses
* JACL then asked for individual repayment
* Congress promised $20,000 to every Japanese sent to a camp

**Decision to drop Atomic Bomb-**

* USA could invade Japan but knew it would be a struggle because of Japan’s huge army
* President Truman decided to drop the bomb as a military weapon
* USA gave Japan the chance to back down but they didn’t
* August 6, 1945- bomb dropped over Hiroshima- an important military center, but Japan refused to surrender, so 3 days later, another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki and Japan surrendered

**Rise of superpowers-**

* Truman wanted to let Eastern Europe have the right of self-determination and be democratic
* Stalin, who emerged from WWII as a nation of enormous economic and military strength, wanted to spread Communism and justified their claim to Europe because of the devastation that took place on their soil- 20 million people, half of whom were citizens, died

**Containment Policy-**

* Faced with Soviet threat, Americans decided to stop “babying” the Soviets
* George F. Kennan proposed a policy of containment- taking measures to prevent any extension of communist rule to other countries

**Red Scare-**

* Soviet domination of Eastern Europe and Communist takeover in China shocked Americans and fueled a fear that communism would spread across he globe
* During WWII, 100,000 Americans claimed membership of Communist party and some feared that the first loyalty of these Americans was to the Soviet Union

**McCarthyism-**

* Joseph McCarthy- anti-communist senator accusing gov’t positions to be communists
* Unfair tactic of accusing people of disloyalty without evidence
* McCarthy claimed to have the names of 57, 81, and 205 communist in gov’t, and charged Democratic party 20 years of treason for allowing communists infiltration
* Republicans did little to stop McCarthy because they believed they would win presidential election if the public saw them purging the nation of Communists
* Accusations against US army accounted to McCarthy’s downfall

**Nuclear weapons-**

* Development of atomic bomb led to develop of H(hydrogen)-bomb
* When Soviet Union dropped an atomic bomb, the US developed the H-bomb, which caused the Soviet Union to develop and H-bomb too
	+ The Soviet Union and USA were in an arms race- seeing which country could develop the H-bomb first
* The threat of nuclear attack was constant for the next 30 years as the Soviet Union and USA built up its army, navy, air force, plus massive stockpiles of nuclear weapons

**Korean War-**

* At the end of WWII, Japanese troops north of the 38th parallel (38 degrees latitude) surrendered to Soviets (communists) while south surrendered to Americans (democratic)
* Americans cut back its armed forces in South Korea and the Soviets concluded the US would not defend South Korea so they prepared to take over the peninsula
* June 25, 1950- N.Korean forces swept across 38th parallel in a surprise attack on S. Korea
* Un was called to help S.Korea and because of Soviet Union absence, the vote passed
* To show military strength, Truman ordered troops in Japan to help S.Korea and sent a fleet between Taiwan and China
* N.Korea advanced into S.Korea and seemed unstoppable
* MacArthur’s counterattack forced N.Koreans to surrender and flee and as UN troops approached the edge of N.Korea, it seemed Korea would be one country again
* The Chinese, who wanted N.Korea as a communist buffer state to protect their northeastern provinces, decided to help N.Korea and pushed S.Korea back to 38th parallel
* After a long stalemate and disagreements between Truman and MacArthur, am agreement was made to keep Korea divided, but communism was contained
	+ MacArthur wanted to use atomic bombs on China but Truman said that would cause a WWIII

**John F. Kennedy-**

* Democratic president
* Massachusetts senator that promised active leadership “to get America moving again”
* Supported with his well-organized campaign and wealthy family
* He looked and spoke better than his opponent, Nixon ,on national television
* He helped get jailed African Americans on bail after they were arrested
	+ Got him important support from key states in the south

**Bay of Pigs-**

* President Eisenhower secretly gave permission to CIA to train Cuban exiles for a Cuban invasion
* It hoped to overthrow Castro
* Kennedy learned of the plan only 9 days after his election, but he approved
* April 17, 1961- 1,400 Cuban exiles landed on Cuba’s Sothern coast at Bahia de Cochinos-Bay of Pigs
* Nothing went as planned
	+ Air strike failed to take out Cuban air force
	+ Small advance group to distract Castro’s forces never reached shore
	+ Main commando unit faced 25,000 Cuban forces backed up by Soviet tanks/aircrafts
* Kennedy was embarrassed but accepted public blame and negotiated $53 million for the release of surviving exiles
* Kennedy promised exiles they would one day return to a free “Havana”, and he would resist further Communist expansion in the Western Hemisphere

**Cuban Missile Crisis-**

* Castro had a powerful ally, the Soviet Union
* Summer of 1962, the flow of Soviet weapons to Cuba increased and America responded with a warning that the US would not tolerate offensive nuclear weapons in Cuba
* Pictures showed Soviet missile bases in Cuba, some ready to launch
* Kennedy informed the nation and said any attack from Cuba would mean war on the Soviet Union
* For six days, the world was at a standstill with nuclear war
* Soviet ships suddenly stopped to avoid confrontation at sea
* Few days later, Khrushchev offered to remove missiles in Cuba for an American pledge not to invade Cuba and to remove missiles from Turkey

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