**Westward Expansion**

**What caused Expansion to the West?**

There are many factors that caused people to move westward. These factors are called Push/Pull factors. A pull factor is something that encourages someone to move west and push something that forces someone to move west. During the 1800’s the federal government passed a number of laws that made it easier for people to move west.

**Pull Factors**

Homestead Act – gave people free land as long as the meet certain criteria.

1. Provided 160 acres of land
2. Had to be 21 yrs of age or the head of the household
3. Had to be an American citizen or working to be a naturalized citizen.
4. Farm the land for five years
5. Live on the land 6 months out of the year for 5 years

This act caused some 600,000 claims for land to be filed and the creation of more than 327,000 new farms.

Emancipation Proclamation- freed the slaves in the south and they moved west to escape the persecution of the south.

Pacific Railway Act 1862 and 1864- Government gave land to the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Railroads to aid them in financing the Transcontinental Railroad. They were able to sell the land along the railroad to raise money to help build this railroad.

Morrill Land Grant Act- Gave states east of the Mississippi river land out west that they could sell to raise money for colleges.

**Push Factors**

Post war economic crisis caused many people to leave the east and go west to start over.

Former slaves moved west to escape the persecution of the south and to start over.

Outlaws moved west because of all the open spaces and the lack of the law.

As one can see there were many factors that caused people to move west, but one of the biggest was improved transportation. Once the transcontinental railroad was built it became easier for people to move west. No longer did one have to spend months riding a horse or wagon, enduring the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter, fearing an Indian attack at any moment. Now with arrival of the transcontinental railroad people move more easily to the west. Trains could move goods and people faster and more cheaply than horse.

Also advances in communication caused mover people to be willing to move west. The telegraph allowed for quicker communication than previously before. Morse code developed by Samuel Morris was used by the telegraph companies so that they could send messages electronically. Later in the 19th century Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone which would revolutionize communication ever more. It expanded from city to city and eventually into the rural areas allows people to speak in real time to others far away.

Also other things aided in westward expansion. The Bessemer process made the production of steel cheaper so it could be used to build bridges, trains, and railroads. The steel plow made it possible for farmers on the plains to turn the soil over. Another invention that had an influence on westward expansion was that of electrical power. Factories began to use this more reliable power source to power its machinery and machines began to replace workers. People lost jobs and they moved west seeking gold or land.

**Affects of the Westward Expansion**

**Native Americans**

One of the major affects of this expansion was that one the Native Americans. As White America moved west the Native Americans lost land and the Buffalo, which was the center of the culture of the native Americans. The Buffalo was the Wal-Mart of the Great Plains. It provided everything the Native American needed for survival. It provided food, shelter, clothing, tool, resources and even fire for the Native Americans living on the Plains. With the destruction of the herds the Native Americans were forced onto reservations and faced the loose of their culture.

The Dawes Act was an attempt of the Federal Government to assimilate the Native American into the American Culture. It divided the reservations into 160 tracts given to each family. Children were taken from parents and sent east to boarding schools where they lost their language and culture. As the older population died off there was no one to carry on the old ways.

**American Economy**

One of the things that drew people to the west was the chance of getting rich quick. Gold, silver, cooper, and other minerals were abundant in the west and this enriched the economy of the nation. People moved west in search of gold and silver causing many territories to acquire enough population to apply for statehood far earlier than what was expected. Also, the cattle industry helps to supply the demand of the east for meat. Great herds of cattle were driven from Texas to the cattle towns of Dodge City in Kansas and others to met cattle buyers who then sold them to the meat packing plants back in Chicago.

**Populism**

Farmers out west had a hard and difficult life. They soon learned that they had to depend on each other for help. The farmer during the Civil war had taken loans to purchase more land and newer equipment so they could work more land with less workers. After the war the prices for grain fell and they had a hard time paying their bills. They wanted to cause inflation, which would make the dollar bill worth less money which meant that they would receive more dollars for their crops. They felt that they were making more money but they were not because it took more dollars to buy things than before. The farmer began to call for the free coinage of silver. They wanted the unlimited minting of silver coins to cause inflation. In 1873 in order to stabilize the economy the Congress had put the U.S. on the gold standard, which meant that they could not print more money than they had gold for. The farmers wanted to do away with the gold standard and freely coin silver. In 1890 Congress passed the Sherman Silver Purchase Act which increased the amount of silver the Government had to purchase but it did not require the government to mint the silver.

The American farmers formed the Populist part which called for the following:

1. The increased coining of silver
2. An increase in the circulation of money
3. A progressive income tax
4. Government ownership of communication and transportation systems. Railroads were charging farmers higher rates to haul their crops east than anyone else.

The Populist Party was able to influence many local and state elections and had some minor success in national politics.

**Industrialization in America**

**Revolution in Technology**

**New form of energy**

During the latter half of the 1800s there were many technological advances that changed not only how people worked but how they lived also. One of these changes was the development of electricity as a power source. It impacted not only people’s jobs but their home life also. Electricity was more efficient as a power source and it could be produced by burning coal, oil, or through hydroelectricity. Thomas Edison invention of the light bulb made it possible for factories to stay open later but it also influenced when people went to bed and what they did at night. Electricity would soon become common in the cities but it would still be a while before it would find its way into the rural areas.

**Advances in Communication**

The way that people communicated especially over long distances changed during this period. The telegraph was the first change that made it easier to communicate with others over long distances more rapidly. Telegraph used the Morse code developed by Samuel Morse and electricity to send messages over long distance more rapidly. Alexander Graham Bell in 1871 created the first Telephone. In 1881 Bell and some partners created the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Telephones soon began to make their way into business and homes located in the cities once again rural areas would have to wait before the lines would move outside city limits. The telephone really revolutionizes communications because for the first time you had real time communication. You no longer had to wait half a day or longer for a response on your message. All you had to do now was just pick the phone up and speak.

**Advances in Transportation**

With the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad it became easier and faster to ship goods from one part of the country to another. Most of the workers on this railroad were immigrants. Irish filled the ranks of workers for the Union Pacific railroad and Chinese made up the bulk of workers for the Central Pacific. After the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad other railroads were built that eventually tied all the regions of the nation together. With railroad travel becoming more popular, it became necessary that time become more centralized. Railroads developed time zones to make it easier to schedule trains and shipments. The development of railroads aided in the creation of national markets, lowering the cost of production, and providing a faster and more practical means of transportation.

The Bessemer process made the manufacturing of steel cheaper which allowed machines and railroad irons to be made out of steel. Also the cheap manufacturing of steel helped to usher in the age of the skyscraper and the building of all steel bridges.

**Big Business**

With the advances of technology one can see the growth of large businesses. They became known as Big business with some coming to dominating its market and other monopolizing more than one business market with the development of trusts. Some writers of the day say the owners of these big businesses as Robber Barons. They felt that they were earning their wealth by stealing it from their workers because they paid low wages. In contrast the owners saw themselves as Captains of Industry. They felt that they strengthening the economy of America by providing jobs so that their workers could earn money to pay rent and buy the goods they were producing. Both assumptions were right. The idea was that the businessman was to make as much money as they can in any way they can.

John D. Rockefeller was an industrialist who developed the trust. He created the Standard Oil Trust and some the methods he used to do this were not ethical. He embodied the spirit of the Robber Baron. Andrew Carnegie created the U.S. Steel company which was the only steel company in the United States, but he was a proponent of the Gospel of Wealth. He believed that God had given the wealth the ability to acquire money and that they were to use to all of his children to meet Christ.

An idea that was developing during this time period gave rise to the question why did I have all this wealth and not someone else. Social Darwinism was developed from Darwin’s Theory of Evolution to try to explain why the wealthy had their money and everyone else was poor. The idea behind this is that the wealthy was rich because they were better able to handle and acquire wealth than others. Those who could not acquire wealth sunk to the bottom and those that could rise to the top.

**Business on a Large Scale (Big Business)**

In the 1800s many factors combined that allowed business to grown beyond what was expected at that time. In fact many grew far beyond the expectations of that time making more money, hiring more workers, and producing more products than what was normal for this period. Several things aided in this development which include:

1. Larger pools of capital- one characteristic of Big Business was that it created large amounts of money and capital (property) that the companies can use to draw upon to create even larger businesses. Owners were able to invest huge sums of money in buying the new technology that would make their companies even more profitable.
2. Wider geographic span- Another characteristic was that instead on only trading locally these companies went national and even global. Railroads and telegraphs made this easier to accomplish owners and managers could send messages and receive answer more quickly and railroads provide cheap and efficient transportation of raw materials and finished product.
3. Broader range of operations- a third characteristic was that instead of only specializing in one area of business Big Business often combined multiple businesses allowing them to control all stages of production from the production of raw material to the finished product.
4. Revised role of ownership- In Big Business owners often had less connection to all aspect of the business because they business was too large. Often owners would hire a professional manager and leave the day to day operations to him.
5. New methods of management- More complex accounting techniques were necessary for controlling the large sums of money that these Big Businesses produced. Also Big Business developed formal written rules of conduct and specialized departments to answer all the challenges that Big Business produced.

**Monopolies**

Some companies created monopolies, or complete control of a product or service. To accomplish businesses would buy our or drive out competition. Also come companies that produced the same product formed loose associations called **cartels** where they agreed to work with each other to control prices but they were not always affective.

Andrew Carnegie used vertical consolidation to gain control of the steel industry. In this type of business model the company controls all aspects of the production. Andrew Carnegie owned the mines that produced the coke, mined the ore, the steel mills, to shipping and railroads on which his goods were shipped. This allowed Andrew Carnegie to control the cost of production.

**Trust**

John D. Rockefeller created a new business concept called a trust. Companies would combine together and turn over their assets over to a board of trustees and in turn promised a share of the profits. This board of trustees would run the operation of the trust. Rockefeller created the Standard Oil Trust by either buying out competition or driving business out of business by lowering prices for his oil so low in one area that competition could not stay in business and making up the lost money by raising the price of oil in other areas.

**Sherman Anti-Trust Act**

A direct response to Rockefeller’s business practices the congress passed the Sherman Anti-Trust Act to break up trust. At first this act was used against labor unions even though this act outlawed any combination of companies that restrained interstate trade or commerce. Courts were pro business at first and they saw labor unions as restraining trade because workers were combining together to gain an advantage over Big Business.

**Factory Workers**

Even though the factories paid low wages people still migrated from the rural areas of America and emigrated from Europe to work in them because it still provided more money than they normally had.

**Division of Labor**

Factories in an attempt to increase production and become more efficient moved away from piecework to that of division of labor. In division of labor the work was divided into separate tasks so that workers would perform only one part of the operation and the piece moved down to the next worker in line to work on until it is completed. The relationship between the worker and owner changed in smaller businesses the workers and owner knew each other but as the factories grew the distance between the worker and owner grew until the workers only became a part of the machine that could be easily replaced.

**Work Environment**

The environment that workers worked in was, by today’s standards, harsh, unsafe, and hard. The clock dictated every aspect of the work day, the work place was not safe, nor was there job security, the workers were paid extremely low wages, child labor was common, and 12 to 14 hours work days were common. Work in factories was hard and long but people were willing to work there because it paid more money than they had made on the farm.

**Working Families**

Factory workers depended on all members of their families working so that they could make enough money to pay the rent, and buy food and clothing. Children, parents, and extended family members worked to help the family survive and if one got sick or fired it could be a financial disaster.

**Labor Unions and Strikes**

Labor unions developed as a way for factory workers to combine and have more power dealing with the factory owners. One method they used was to go on strike or a shutdown of the plant to get better working conditions or pay. Some of the early labor unions were:

1. Knights of Labor- Leader was Terence Powderly and they signed up both skilled and unskilled, men, women, and African Americans. It called for equal pay for equal work, an eight hour work day, and an end to child labor. Commonly used the strike as a tool to get what it wanted. By the 1890s the knights had largely disappeared.
2. The American Federation of Labor- formed in 1886 and under the leadership of Samuel Gompers. Used collective bargaining as a tool to get what they wanted did not pursue the strike. They signed up only skilled labor. It called for higher wages and better working conditions.
3. The Wobblies- International Workers of the World (IWW) focused on unskilled workers and was a radical union. Many socialists were member of its leadership. Socialist followed socialism which believed that Government should own all factors of production.

**Reaction of Employers**

Employers did not like the unions so they tried to either break them or drive them out. Some measures they used to oppose the unions:

1. Forbid union membership among its employees.
2. Firing union organizers.
3. Forcing new employees to sign “yellow dog contract” where they agreed not to join unions.
4. Refusing to bargain collectively.
5. Refusing to recognize union representatives as the workers official representatives.

**Strikes**

**Great Railroad Strike of 1877-** President Hayes sent Federal Troops to end the strike and keep order. From 1877 on employers relied on federal and state troops to repress labor unions.

**Haymarket Strike 1886**- workers struck at the McCormick factory. As the workers were meeting anarchists threw bombs into the crowd and killing a police officer. This caused many people to begin to oppose the unions as being a place of radicals and anarchist and union membership begin to decline rapidly.

**Homestead Strike 1892**- workers struck at the Carnegie plant in Homestead when their wages were cut. When strike breakers were brought in violence erupted and several people. The union was broken there.

**Pullman Strike of 1894**- in 1894 Pullman cut wages at his Pullman plant and the workers went on strike other railroad unions went on a sympathy strike. The president sent in federal troops claiming that these strikes were harming national security because the mail was not being moved. The courts ordered the strike to end using the Sherman Anti-Trust act setting an important precedent for the future. For next several years owners would use the courts to prevent the unions from growing or becoming effective.

**Gilded Age**

**Laissez-Faire Policies of the Government**

The phrase Laissez-Faire means that Government should play a very limited role in business. In the 1800s this was the common philosophy of government. They felt that what was best for the United States was for Business to be left alone. Sometimes this lack of governmental oversight did cause some problems such as the **Credit Mobiller Scandal** where members of congress were caught taking shares from the Credit Mobiller Company. This company had been set up by the Union Pacific to lay the tracks of the Transcontinental Railroad. It was discovered that many congressmen owned shares in this company which was illegal since Credit Mobiller was charging the Union Pacific extremely high prices and congress kept sending money to pay the bills

**Regulation of Railroads**

Because of its business practices of charging one price to this person and another price to another the Federal Government in 1887 paced the Interstate Commerce Act which established the Interstate Commerce Commission which was to regulate railroad prices and practices on railroads that traveled through states. States had in 1877 been given the power by the Supreme Court in Munn v. Illinois to regulate railroads that moved goods within their states.

**Immigration**

People emigrated from Europe to come to America in search of the American dream. Irish came to America to escape the potato famine that was killing millions in Ireland. They arrived in American and many went to work on the Union Pacific Railroad. Immigrants from Europe mostly came through Ellis Island in New York and had to pass a physical before they could enter the U.S. If they failed they were sent back to the country they came from. Others came to American to escape persecution and wars that were being fought in Europe at this time.

On the Pacific coast Chinese came to America to work on the Central Pacific Railroad and Japanese immigrants came to work on farms. Because they looked differently, spoke a different language, had different customs and culture, and a religion that no one understood they faced persecution and opposition. In 1882 the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed prohibiting the immigration of Chinese into the U.S. And in 1907 President Theodore Roosevelt reached a compromise with the Japanese Emperor limiting only skilled workers from Japan to immigrating to the U.S.

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**How Did Industry Affect Cities?**

**City Expansion**

With the development of factories in the cities large number of people migrated to them. Cities grew so fact water, housing, services, and sewage systems were overwhelmed. Those that had the money, such as factory owners, managers, professionals, and store owners, moved to the suburbs and the factory workers were forced to live in the slums. Those that lived in the slums surrounding the factories faced crime, pollution, and disease.

**Political Machines**

Political machines developed when one party gained political control of a city or state. The leader of the party was known as the boss and he controlled who was elected and what went on in the cities. He received bribes for people to get appointments with political leaders or contracts. Ward leaders would help immigrants to find homes, jobs, and took care of them if they were sick or lost their jobs. The immigrants were expected to vote the way the machine wanted them too in elections.

**Social Gospel**

This was a movement among middle and upper class youth to help the need and poor. They created settlement house in working class neighborhoods to provided services that were needed. Jane Addams is one of the more famous members of the settlement movement. The Hull house that Addams founded provided babysitting services, parenting services, reading classes, and medical services as well as many other services that were normally not available to the working class.

**Temperance Movement**

This was a movement to eliminate the consumption of alcohol. Members felt that alcohol was the reason for the crime and abuse that was occurring. Their desire would not be realized until 1918 with the passage of the 18th Amendment. The purity Crusaders wanted to eliminate vice and crime in the cities.

**Nativists**

These were Americans who had been in this country for at least 3 generations. They opposed immigrants and wanted the Government to end or restrict immigration. They feared that immigrants would work for less money driving wages down or that they will be anarchists and bring political disruption. They were able to get the Chinese exclusion Act passed in 1882.

**Life in the Twentieth Century**

**Immigration and Public Education**

During the 19th century there was an expanding opportunities for education. The development of public schools provided more opportunities for children to attend elementary and latter high school. For immigrants public schools were opportunities by which their children could become assimilated into American society and culture. Immigrants saw education as a way by which their children could succeed.

**Women and Higher Education**

During the late 1800s colleges for women began to develop. Women started to become doctors and lawyers but few hospitals would hire them and law firms would hire women for lawyers. But women were being given the opportunity to receive a higher education.

**African American and Higher Education**

In the 19th century only a few of the nation’s colleges were willing to admit African Americans. African Americans began to fund and build colleges for African Americans. Many are still around today such as Tugaloo in Jackson and Howard University. These institutions provided African American an opportunity to receive a higher education and to move ahead.

**New Forms of Entertainment**

**Movies**

Silent films became very popular and nickelodeons became very popular and spread too many areas. Movie theaters began to be built and people flocked to them to be entertained.

**Amusement Parks**

Amusements parks developed and people would go and spend the weekend even though they still work long hours. After working a half a day on Saturday they would go and spend the rest of the day there enjoying riding the roller coasters and other rides located at the park. The most famous one is Coney’s Island Luna Park.

**Sports**

The national past time became Baseball. Baseball teams began to develop all over and people would go to the games and enjoy a day watching their favorite team. Women also began to compete in sports especially basketball.

**Newspapers**

In the 1800s newspapers became a popular form of reading and a vital source of information. New features such as the comics, sports, women’s pages, and stories “hot off the pages”.

**Yellow journalism**

Between 1870 and 1900 newspaper circulation soared and papers in competition for reader ships. Newspapers began to publish stories where the facts have been sensationalized in hopes of encouraging more people to read their paper.

Joseph Pulitzer he was the owner the New Your World said his purpose was to expose all fraud. William Randolph Hearst was the owner of the New York Journal was even more sensational in their reporting. Though this type of journalism was quite popular there were those who were critics of it.

**Magazines**

Magazines such as McClure’s, Cosmopolitan, and Munsey’s were popular magazines. They featured stories appealing to the average American desire to succeed. In many of these stories the hero embodies the American dream of rising from rags to riches. This we can see in the popular Horatio Algers stories. These types of stories reminded the working poor that of the seemingly boundless opportunities available to them in the nation industrial cities.

**Jim Crow**

This term refers to the laws that the southern states passed soon after the end of reconstruction that was designed to limit or remove many of the freedoms and rights that African Americans had received after the Civil War and exercised during reconstruction.

**Segregation**

This is the legal separation of the races seen in the south. Many ways were used to prevent African Americans from voting. One was the poll tax where one had to pay a tax before they could vote. This prevented African Americans from voting because very few of them had the money to vote. Another was the literacy test. Before one could vote they had to prove that could not only read but understand what they had read. Since most African Americans could not read they were effectively block from voting. The grandfather clause was used to allow the poor whites to vote. If one had a grandfather that voted in 1860 election they could vote. All of these were used to take away African Americans right to vote.

**Plessey v. Ferguson**

The federal courts as well as the Supreme Court would help to support segregation by many decisions that they made during this time period. In Plessey v. Ferguson the Supreme Court said that it was legal for the races to be segregated as long as separate but equal facilities were kept. This established the “separate but equal” doctrine the problem was who decided what was equal. The separate facilities for African Americans were quite often substandard from those of the whites.

**Violence**

Was used the whites to keep African American from moving forward in society. It was designed to keep them down trodden and unable to advance economically but socially also. The worst kind of violence was that of lynching where African American men accused of a crime was taken out by a mob and hung. Those who carried out these horrors were rarely if ever charged or punished for what they had done. In the North African Americans faced discriminations as well as violence. So many African Americans moved north during the great migration that they began to compete with whites for jobs and that caused fear that they would take all the jobs away and a number of race riots erupted in numerous cities like New York City and other metropolitan areas.

**Resisting Discrimination**

African Americans resisted this discrimination in many different ways. They formed organization, church groups, and individuals stood against this violence. Many gave the ultimate sacrifice to gain the rights that was theirs as citizens of the United States.

**NAACP and Civil Rights**

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was formed to fight for the rights of African Americans. It would fight in the courts for these rights. It would remain a vital force in the fight for the civil rights.

**Changing Roles of Women**

During the latter half of the 19th century women began to want to be work outside their homes, get a college education, and attain the right to vote. In urban areas electricity was revolutionizing home life. The light bulb allowed people to stay up later and electricity in homes brought about a number of innovations that would make housework easier. Irons, refrigerator, vacuum cleaners allowed the women to do their housework quicker and easier. During this time women went from producer of most of the food and clothing for their family to a consumer as they went to stores to buy the food and clothes and other items that their family needed. By the 1900s the women question had grown to national proportions and they began to demand their rights also

**Becoming a World Power**

**Growth of Imperialism**

In the 1800s the European nations have embarked on another round of imperialism. This was lead by four main factors:

1. Economic Factors- the need for new markets and sources of raw materials drove many nations in Europe to seek to conqueror territories in Africa and Asia. The U.S. toward the end of the 1890s would also seek lands strategically placed around the world for the same economic reasons.
2. Nationalistic Factors- Nationalism was also a driving force for imperialism. National pride drove nations like Great Britain, France, and Germany to acquire large empires.
3. Military Factors- With this large empire there was the need to protect them from invasion or rebellion by the native population, so nations began to establish large armies and navies to protect and transport troops where they were needed.
4. Humanitarian Factors- Humanitarian and religious goals would spurs on the nations to conqueror lands. The felt that God had blessed western society so much that it their God given duty to spread the western culture and religion to those less fortunate.

**Expanding U.S. Interests**

When George Washington was leaving office as President he in his farewell speech warned the nation not to get involved in alliances with European nations. During the 1820s the Monroe doctrine established President Monroe followed the foreign policy by the U.S. Under this doctrine the U.S. had declared itself neutral in European wars and warned other nations not to interfere in the Western Hemisphere. Toward the end of the 1800s the U.S. began to seek islands and territory in the Pacific to provide military bases where it ships could refuel. People argued that U.S. industry needed new markets and sources of cheap raw material. Others argued that if the U.S. were to become a world power it would need military bases strategically located across the globe where our ships could resupply and refuel. Gradually more and more Americans began to lean toward expansion.

While there were some in America who found the idea of Imperialism appealing there were many others who did not. They argued against it on moral and political grounds. They said that we had been a colony and we had fought for our freedom and it was not right that we would conqueror people and force them to be part of the U.S. if they did not want to be. Also others argued saying that Imperialism only would give African-Americans and other non-whites living in the U.S. the idea that they could have freedoms also. Others felt that it went against the constitution and American history to have colonies. They wondered where the constitutional authority ended. Did it end at the shores of America or did it follow the flag.

**Spanish-American War**

Due to the Spanish-American War the United States would enter into the imperial race. When Cuba revolted from Spain it would draw the U.S. into the war. The explosion of the Maine in Havana Harbor in Cuba started the war. The U.S. defeated the older Spanish navy in the Pacific and the war was soon over. The treaty with Spain that ended the war gave the U.S. the islands of Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippians making the U.S. an imperial nation. Then in 1898 the U.S. also annexed the Island nation of Hawaii and it became part of the United States. The argument that most made for the acquiring of these areas was that we needed naval bases that our warships could refuel at so that we could protect our trade and business interests all over the world.

**Open Door Policy**

This policy was introducd by Secretary of State John Hay. It involved trade with China. By 1899 China was divided up under economic zones controlled by Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, and Japan. The United States businesses wished to have access to these markets. Secretary Hay sent letters to him counter parts in the governments of Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, and Japan stating that all of China should be open for trade. When his counter parts did not respond back he said they since they did not state they did not agree that meant they agreed and therefore there was an Open Door to trade anywhere in China and American Businesses were free to trade there.

**Theodore Roosevelt Foreign Policy**

When President McKinley was assassinated in 1901 his Vice President Theodore Roosevelt became President. Teddy as he was called was a man of a lot of energy and a get it done attitude. One of the first things he set out to do under his foreign policy was to acquire the rights to build the Panama Canal which would cut down on the time that ships had to travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. He acquired the rights from French Company who had gotten them from Colombia. When Roosevelt went to Colombia to try to work out a deal they brushed him off hoping to wait until the rights had expired then negotiate a new deal.

Roosevelt encouraged the people of Panama to break away from Colombia and when they did Teddy immediately recognized them as a new nation and the U.S. acquired perpetual rights to build the Canal and run it. The U.S. paid $10,000,000 for this right. Once the Canal was completed the U.S. had control over it.

Another aspect of Teddy Roosevelt’s foreign diplomacy was what is known as his **Big Stick Diplomacy**. T.R. said speak softly and carry a big stick. This meant that he was asking the nations of South America to do something and when they refused he would send in the navy and marines and force them to do what he wanted. This caused a lot of Latin American nations not to trust the United States today. Roosevelt’s successor President William Howard Taft followed a different Policy with Latin America than Teddy. Taft used the dollar to get the Latin Americans nations to do what he wanted. He would threaten to pull American businesses out of the country if it did not do what he wanted. Taft’s successor President Woodrow Wilson tried to use what he called moral diplomacy when dealing with Latin American nations and found that it often failed.

**Progressives**

The Progressives where found in the urban areas and they were made up of the middle class and wealthy who saw the conditions of the working class and the corruption of politics and they attempted to do something about it. Their goals where:

1. Felt that the government should be more accountable to the people
2. Government should have expanded powers so that it could become more active in the people’s lives.
3. Government should curb the power and influence of the wealthy interests.
4. Government should become more efficient and less corrupt so that they could competently handle the expanded role.

Journalists were some of the earliest reformers. They wrote about the corruption of political machines and the unfair and unethical business practices of big business. Teddy Roosevelt called these journalist Muckrakers because he felt they were just trying to stir up a big stink with their reporting. When Upton’s Sinclair’s book the Jungle was published it exposed the practices of the meat packing plants in Chicago. Roosevelt and congress was forced to move and pass laws that regulated the meat packing industry.

Progressives had most of their success at the local level. They were effective in doing away with the political machines and some progressives like in Cleveland Ohio were able to get the city to provide welfare and assistance to the poor. At the state level progressives were able to the referendum and recall passed. This made governments more responsive to the people’s needs. At the federal level progressives got the 17th Amendment which was the Federal income tax passes and eventually prohibition would become the law of the land under the 18th Amendment.

There were three progressive presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson. Roosevelt was considered a progressive president because of his active attack against trust and his conservation of land. Taft continued Roosevelt’s conservation work but he was not popular with the Republican Party because of his stance on tariffs. T. R. tried to win the Republican nomination for president in 1912 but they did not want him back in power so T.R. created the Bull Moose Party and spilt the Republican vote allowing the Democrat candidate Woodrow Wilson to win. Wilson was considered a progressive president for his lowering tariffs, attacking trusts, and the creation of the Federal Reserve System.

The Federal Reserve System was designed to allow the government to manipulate the economy. Banks could become members and borrow money from the Federal Reserve banks. They could then lend that money out and collect interest on it. The Federal Reserve could control the economy by the interest it charged to banks which would make it either more expensive to get a loan or easier to get a loan as the interest rate went down.

**The 19th Amendment**

Women finally in 1920 women would win the right to vote. It had been a long hard fought battle with women such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton leading the way.

**World War I**

**Cause of World War I**

During the early 1900s Europe was sitting on a powder keg waiting to explode. With all the alliances that had been created by Otto Von Bismarck to make France weak and the others that had been created after that anything could have drawn Europe into war. There were four main causes of World War I:

1. Imperialism- This caused many nations to become aggressive as the competed with each other for colonies and to dominate markets. This often led to conflicts between the great European powers. Countries like Germany and Italy who were newly formed realized that the only way their colonies could grow large was by taking territory away from earlier colonizers.
2. Militarism- by the beginning of the 1900s diplomacy had taken a back seat to the military. Countries aggressively built up armies and navies to protect their empires from others trying to take territory away. These countries spent large sums of money on the development of new weapons and ships. The endless planning for war made it much more likely to happen.
3. Nationalism- There was two kinds of nationalism that would contribute to World War I. The first was the nationalism that involved pride in one’s country. People naturally wanted their country to be the most powerful and the largest so they were willing to be aggressive and maintain a large military. The other type of nationalism that helped to start World War I was that of wanting to have their own nation and be ruled by people that looked like them, spoke like them, and had the same culture as they did. Rebellion by native peoples caused colonizers to maintain large armies and navies to keep the peace.
4. Alliances- All the secret and not so secret alliance was instrumental in causing World War I. Any spark any conflict could have set it off. The trigger that set off WW I was the assassination of the Grand Duke Ferdinand of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. His death at the hands of a Serbian national would lead to Austria-Hungary declare war on Serbia. This caused Russia to get involved, which drew in Germany, which then drew in France, which would eventually draw in Great Britain when Germany invades Belgium to capture France.

**The Great War**

When the British and French forces stopped the Germany forces about fifty miles from Paris and a stalemate occurred. Germany was fighting a two front war and that was draining its resources. As Germany ability to fight a two war declined due to the British blockade Germany began to use its submarine fleet to attempt to cut off the British supply line with the United States. This caused many in the U.S. to not be sympathetic toward Germany. In the fact the sinking of ocean liners carrying passengers turned many toward Great Britain.

America’s first response to the war was to declare neutrality which means that American was not going to take sides in the war. Great Britain used propaganda to make Americans see Germans in a bad light. Some in America realized that eventually because of our trade with the allies was so important that America would enter the war. They called for congress to begin to prepare for war by increasing the size of the military. Congress responded by instituting the first peace time draft. Due to continued German submarine warfare and the Zimmerman Note the U.S. entered the war in 1917.

Another event that made it easier for the U.S. to enter the war was that in March 1917 the Russian Czar had abdicated the throne and a republic had been set up. The war was now between democratic states vs. autocratic states. Wilson sold the war as a war to make democracy safe for the future.

**America at War**

Once the American Expeditionary Force arrived in France the allies quickly wanted to divide them up and fill in their ranks but General Pershing refused and said the American force would stay together. The introduction of the American troops and the full force of the American economy behind this war soon proved too costly for Germany to maintain even when Russia pulled out it was too late and too little. Germany was forced to surrender and the war in Europe was over 1918.

Many new weapons were used during this war such as airplanes; machine guns, grenades, and poison gas just to name a few. These weapons would change the way was fought. This war because of the new technology caused many soldiers to be killed and a large number to be permanently to be injured. Then at the end of the war the Spanish Flu hit and killed millions more people. The war was so horrific that Woodrow Wilson in a speech stressed 14 points to prevent war. This speech known as the 14 points speech called for:

1. Self determination- peoples in colonies or conquered areas would decide if they wanted to be part of another nation or not.
2. End to secret alliances
3. A league of nations to preserve the peace.

Wilson was forced to compromise most of his points but a League of Nations was created but the U.S. did not join nor did it sign the peace treaty. It would later create its own treaty with Germany to end the war.

**How did The U.S. Finance the War?**

1. Managed the economy by regulating prices and controlling where resources went. Herbert Hoover used propaganda to encourage people to clean their plates and not to waste food and fuel that could be used in the War.
2. Rationing- limiting the availability of resources
3. Creating daylight savings time so there was more sunlight each day.
4. Selling of Liberty Bonds.

**Enforcing loyalty**

The government feared that spies would try to undermine the war effort so Congress passed the Espionage Act in 1917 which made it illegal to interfere with the draft. Then it passed the Sedition Act, which made it illegal to obstruct the sale of liberty bonds or to discuss anything disloyal, profane, or abusive about the American form of Government, the Constitution, or the military.

**War and its effects on Minorities and Women**

The war provided social mobility for African-American by allowing them to enter into jobs that normally would not be available to them. Women also enter the work place in large numbers and were performing jobs that they normally were not allowed to do or thought that women could not do. At the end of the war African-Americans and women lost their jobs so that the returning soldiers would have their jobs back **The 1920s**

**The Changing Roles of Women**

During the 1920s women begin to enter the work place. The war had proven that women were more qualified than many had thought. The Flapper is the common image for women of this period even though most women were not flappers. The war had caused many youth to questions the morals and values that caused War World I. Women began to wear their hair shorter and their hems higher. Shorter hair made it more manageable and higher hem lengths were made more sense in the work place. Also in the 1920s women won the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

**The Great Migration**

In the 1920s there is seen a great movement of African-Americans from the south to the north. During the war African-Americans left the south to go to work in the war industries and after the war many more moved to the north to cities like Detroit and Chicago. They were moving in search of better jobs and to escape the Jim Crow laws of the south. Once they arrived in the north they found that segregation was also in the north. There were certain jobs not available to them and there were certain areas where they could not go. But the north provided a better life from many than the south.

**Looking for American Heroes**

Also in the 1920s American began to look for the American hero that exemplified the values and morals of America. People like Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, and sport heroes like Babe Ruth gained popularity. They seemed bigger than life and the American public loved them.

**Mass Media and the Jazz Age**

Newspapers, magazines, and radio began to create a national culture. Before the introduction of the Radio people were only mildly concerned with what was going on in the rest of the nation. But after radio became so popular a national culture began to be created. People were now listening to the same shows, news, music and it was creating an American culture.

A new musical form that was born out of ragtime and blues was gaining popularity not only among the African-American population but also among the younger White population. This new musical form known as jazz helped to bring the two races together. To hear jazz one had to go to jazz club and they were located in African-American neighborhoods in speakeasies. This was the era of prohibition, which was created by the 18th Amendment. Men like Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington led the big bands that played jazz at these clubs.

Another event was occurring in the African American community located in Harlem in New York and that was the Harlem Renaissance. Harlem was becoming the cultural center of African-American society. There was an economic boom in Harlem with African-American business growing and becoming successful. Great African-American writers such as James Weldon Johnson, Allen Locke, Dorothy West, Claude McKay, Countee Cullens, and Langston Hughes were located in Harlem.

Another group of writers had become disgusted with America and its values after the war and they moved to Paris where they became known as the Lost Generation. This group included Sherwood Anderson, Archibald MacLeish, Hart Crane, E.E. Cummings, Ernest Hemmingway, and F. Scot Fitzgerald.

The 1920s also brought about a number of cultural conflicts. With the passage of the 18th Amendment prohibition became the law of the land. It was illegal to make or sell alcoholic beverages. Bootlegging developed to provide people with drink and with it came organized crime. Al Capone is probably the best known organized crime boss. Prohibition proved to be a failure in mandating moral behavior and it would eventually be repealed. Another culture issue was that religion. The theory of evolution brought controversy. It seemed to contradict the Bible so in the south a movement developed called fundamentalism. This was a belief that the Bible is the complete truth and that there is no error in it. Many southern states passed laws preventing the teaching of evolution in their class room. In 1925 a teacher in Tennessee by the name of John T. Scopes taught evolution in his class. He was arrested. William Jennings Bryan volunteered to prosecute and Clarence Darrow volunteered to defend. Scopes lost but it brought the teaching of evolution to the forefront of debate.

**Racial Tensions of the 1920s**

African-American soldiers had returned from war hoping that they had proven their love and loyalty to this country. They believed that they would begin to receive their rights as citizens but what they found was more of the same. Race riots developed in cities due to over population and segregation. The Klu Klux Klan was reborn with most of its membership in northern states.

The NAACP worked to fight discrimination. They mostly used the courts to try and win right for African-American. The Garvey movement also occurred in the 1920s. Marcus Garvey was an African-American from Jamaica. He encouraged African-Americans to invest in shipping company called the Black Star and called for African-Americans to return to Africa. Corruption and mismanagement plagued the company in 1925 Garvey was arrested for fraud.

**1920s a Republican Decade**

The 1920s was marked by a decade of Republican control of Washington D.C. The war was over and the world was safe for democracy. The public had confidence in not only the government but in the economy and people had money to spend because of this confidence. The only thing that the people feared was communism. With the communist takeover of Russia many feared that the same thing could happen here in the United States. With the Soviet Union’s intention to spread communism around the world many Americans were alarmed and grew concerned that the masses of European immigrants entering the U.S. were communist and radicals.

With communist attempting to overthrow the new German government and communist coming to power in Hungary many grew fearful of a similar event here in the states. As radicals continued to try to cause anarchy the United States was soon in the grip of the Red Scare.

**The Red Scare**

This was an intense fear of communism and other politically radical ideas. An increasingly large number of people were beginning to call for the jailing or deportation of communist. Some court cases helped to support this idea:

**Schenck v. U.S.** During WWI Charles Schenck opposed the war and he had written letters encouraging draftees not to report for duty. He was convicted under the Espionage Act. He appealed on the grounds that he was exercising his right to free speech. The court said that the government had the right to silence free speech when there is clear and present danger. Schenck lost his appeal and remained in jail.

These and other events would lead to the **Palmer Raids.** In June of 1919 radicals had sent several bombs to people in different cities one arrived at the home of A. Mitchell Palmer, the Attorney General of the United States. Palmer was convinced that the radicals were attempting to overthrow the federal government. The Federal Justice Department under Palmers leadership raided many Immigrant organizations and obtained their membership roles. Thousands of immigrants were rounded up many were put into jail and many more were deported back to the countries they had come from. Eventually the hysteria ran its course and Palmer faded from the picture.

**Sacco and Vanzetti-** They were accused of killing a guard and paymaster of a factory in Massachusetts. Sacco was a shoemaker and Vanzetti was a fish peddler and both were anarchists. Guns were found when they were arrested and their trial was seen by many as being unfair but they were found guilty. In April 1927 they were sentenced to death and they died two months later in the electric chair. Events such as these fueled the red scare.

**Labor Troubles of the 1920s**

Also labor strikes caused many Americans to be less sympathetic to labor unions. They began to see labor unions as being filled with communist sympathizers and many people began to leave the unions because of this. Many people felt that communists were behind the strikes but most strikes were caused by low pay and poor work conditions. During the 1920s membership in labor unions declined due to unemployment being high and people leaving because of the idea that labor unions were places for communist growth.

**Harding Presidency**

Harding foreign policy called for disarmament. He promoted the expansion of trade and established a tariff to protect industry in America. Great Britain and France war debts were reduced to better reflect their ability to pay but Germany was unable to with war torn economy to continue to pay its debts. Also the Republican Party favored the restricting immigration due to the red scare and nativism.

Harding made some good decisions on appointing members to this cabinet and other government post but he also appointed friends and family to positions that would cause him problems. The biggest scandal of Harding’s presidency was the Teapot Dome Scandal. In 1921 the Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall secretly gave two oil-drilling companies the rights to drill on government oil fields. In return Fall received more than $300,000 and a ranch. This quickly became the biggest scandal of his presidency. Harding died while in office and his Vice President Calvin Coolidge became President.

**The Coolidge Presidency**

Coolidge believed in Laissez Faire economics and he felt that the best thing the government could do was to stay out of the affairs of business. He felt the government should not regulate the business world. It would be during his term that the Kellogg-Brand Pact would be created. 15 nations pledged not to use threat of war in their dealing with one another. More than 60 nations eventually joined this pact but it was a failure since it did not have any provision for enforcing it.

**Election of 1928**

Herbert Hoover won this election and many expected the prosperity of the decade would continue under Hoover.

**The Economy of the 1920s**

**Consumer Economy**

The economy of the 1920s was a consumer economy. This means that it was one that depended on a large amount of spending by consumers which are the people who buy the products and goods that are produced. Historically Americans valued thrift and paying for everything in cash. In fact the saying if I can’t pay cash for it don’t need it was the rule by which many lived. Starting in the 1920s though people were feeling confident in the economy they were willing to begin and buy cars and technology to make their life easier. Henry Ford with the introduction of the assembly line in the car industry made it possible for nearly everyone to own a car. Companies began to advertise their products encouraging people to buy them and Henry Ford began to allow people to buy his model T on the installment plan. Stores began to let people purchase appliances, furniture, and other goods on the installment plan which meant that they could pay a little now and use the product until it was paid off. This marks the first time in American History where the majority of people went into debt to buy goods.

**Economic Danger Signs of the 1920s**

But the economy was not as strong or stable as many believed. The American farmer was not benefitting from the supposedly economic boom. Food prices were dropping and farmers were struggling to pay their bills. Many farmers lost their farms because they were unable to pay off loans that they had taken out to fund expansion during the war. Once the WWI was over the European markets in which they had been selling their crops closed as European farmers returned from war and began to farm once again. So farmers tried to grow more crops and this continued to drive down the price for their crops. So a large segment of American society did not feel the prosperity of the 1920s.

Other danger signs also excited.

1. Uneven Prosperity- despite the stories of people striking it rich on the stock market the truth was that the rich were the only ones getting richer. In 1929 only 0.1% of the population, about 24,000 families, owned most of the wealth in this country. While 71 % of the families in America earned less than $2,500 dollars a year and nearly 80% of the families had no savings.
2. Personal Debt- many Americans had became accustomed to credit during the 1920s. This may seem good or okay but eventually a person’s ability to borrow runs out and they can no longer purchase goods. As more and more people struggle with debt means that business stop manufacturing and people begin to lose jobs which caused more people to be unable to buy and a downward spiral begins to develop.
3. Playing the Stock Market- people who could not afford to lose money bought stock on margin. What this means is that people paid only a portion of the cost of the stock and borrowed the rest from the broker. They were speculating hoping to buy low now and sell at a higher price later there by being able to pay the broker what they owed him and make a profit also.
4. To many good and too little demand- after WWI companies continued to produce goods at war levels. Eventually the consumer would be unable to sustain the demand for goods and companies began to fill warehouses up. As warehouses were filled companies began to cut hours and lay people off.

**The Great Depression 1929-1941**

**The Stock Market Crash of 1929**

**Black Thursday Oct. 23, 1929**

One this date the stock market began to drop and worried investors began to sell their stock. But many people were still confident about the American economy. President Hoover even said that the American Economy was on a sound and prosperous basis. Then on the following Tuesday the economy began to unravel and the nation began to go into a depression.

**Black Tuesday October 29, 1929**

On this day there was a rush by investors to sell of their stocks, brokers began to call in loans and people did not have the money to pay off the loans because their stock value had fallen. People went broke as well as many investment houses. Banks were unable to pay their customers the money they had deposited with them and over 5,000 banks would collapse during this time period.

**Business Cycle**

The Great Depression was a part of what is known as the business cycle. In a business cycle you have periods of ups and downs. Think of the like this. A depression is really just a reset button for our economy. Companies that can survive the depression come out of leaner and more able to compete in the world market and those companies that are not able to survive go belly up. Credit spending held up the economy of the 1920s and an economy cannot long survive by spending more than it makes or can afford.

The Business Cycle

In an economy there are periods of expansion and contractions which are represented by the graft above. The period of expansion is the shown by the upward movement of the graft where at some times it will hit a peak and stop rising and then the contraction is the downward movement of the graft to where it hits the trough or Depression. This trough or depression can be short or can be for an extended period of time.

**How did the Depression affect the nation?**

At the beginning the depression only affected a small number of people but as it wore on it quickly began to affect the nation as a whole. Investors were unable to invest in companies or business owners lost large sums of money in the crash they were unable to pay their workers and people were laid off. This caused even more people to be laid off because there was less money for people to buy goods with. A downward spiral began which would lead to more and more people losing their jobs, taking pay cuts, or working part time.

Another ways in which the depression affected people was bank closures. When the depression hit and people heard that banks were closing their doors people rushed to their bank to get out their money. When too many people demanded their money the banks were unable to give them their money back and they had to close their doors.

The impact of the depression on workers and farmers were substantial. Many workers lost their jobs or had their hours cut. Farmers where already struggling and the depression would make that struggle harder. Many farmers out in the Great Plains due to the Dust Bowl left their farms and when to California in search of jobs.

**The Dust Bowl**

The Dust Bowl occurred because of prolonged drought on the Great Plains and farming practices of the farmers. Powerful winds would create dust storms that would carry the soil of the Great Plains as far east as Washington D.C. Many farmers on the Plains simply left their farms and went west to California looking for jobs. They often met with persecution and were forced into low paying farm work where they followed the seasonal work.

**Great Depression’s Impact on the World**

By the end of the 1920s the economies of the major economic powers in the world were interdependent. In other words what happened in one would be what happened in the rest especially in the United States. As long as Germany had American investors it could pay its reparations to the English and French and as long as Germany could pay its reparations than England and France could pay its war debt to the United States. Once the depression hit Germany was no longer able to pay its reparations because investors from the U.S. no longer had money to invest. When Germany stopped paying its reparations Great Britain and France could not pay its war debts that they owed to the U.S.

**Underlying Causes of the Great Depression**

1. An unstable economy- credit debt and a small percentage of the population owning the largest portion of the nation’s wealth.
2. Over speculation- people investing in the stock with borrowed money and they were unable to afford any loses.
3. Governmental policies. The government was slow to respond to the depression with its monetary policies or to do anything to help encourage spending.

**Social Impact of the Great Depression**

The Great Depression left an impact on anyone who survived it. People who lived in the rural areas on farms continued to live as they always had. People in the cities struggled. Some moved back in with family living in the country others continued to struggle to survive the best way they could. Hooverville’s began to crop up all over. These where areas where people and families who had lost their homes had constructed shelter out of whatever material they could find. Card board boxes, pallets, scrap lumber, tar paper, and anything else they could find was used in creating shelter. People began to call these areas Hoovervilles because they felt that the president was not in touch with what was going on.

The Great Depression put a strain on people and their health suffered because they were not able to get enough to eat or receive medical care when they were sick. Families where torn apart when fathers would leave home in search of jobs, so that their wives could get state assistance, or when older children would leave home so that there would not be as mouths to feed. Men felt that they were failures because they could no longer provide for their families. Children and people died because they could not get medical care. Life during the depression was hard and people struggled to survive.

**Surviving the Great Depression**

People survived the Great Depression by pulling together. Farmers stuck by each other and when a farmer lost his farm and the bank sold it at auction farmers from the surrounding community would buy it for pennies and give it back to the farmer. Many young men would leave the family and ride the railroad cars in search of work they became Hobos moving from Hobo jungle to the next in search of jobs and meals. Often times their lives were in danger from falling under the train as they tried to board it while it was moving to being caught by the railroad detective and being thrown from the train.

Many in the nation began to look to the federal government for a solution. Hoover felt that it was the states and local government responsibility to provide assistance not the federal governments. The problem was that the local governments did not have the resources to deal with the problems created by the Great Depression nor did the states. People continued to suffer. Also it would be during this period that 18th amendment would be repealed by the 21st amendment. Prohibition was seen as a failed attempt to legislate social values and morals. Many saw the repeal as a way of curbing the rising power and influence of organized crime. Others say the repeal of the 18th amendment as harmful to the nation.

**Election of 1932**

By the election of 1932 people were ready for a change in Washington D.C. They felt that the republicans were out of touch with the people and the needs of the nation. President Hoover was seen by most of the population as uncaring and unwilling to do anything to help. And by the time Hoover did act to lessen the impact on the Depression it was too little and too late for many people. So why Franklin D. Roosevelt comes along saying that he was willing to do something even if it was wrong people were ready to act.

When the WWI veterans had marched on Washington demanding their bonus in the summer of 1932 Hoover ordered General MacArthur to remove them. When he used tear gas and force the nation was shocked and Hoover was embarrassed. Furthermore it made him seem even more unwilling to help the needy. FDR’s new deal proclamation encouraged many people so he won the presidential election of 1932 by a very large majority. People were ready for a change and they used this election to bring about that change. FDR brought a sense of hope and confidence to the people and in his inaugural address he set the tone for his presidency with these words “So first let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” He spoke these words with conviction and confidence, reassuring a frightened nation.

**The New Deal**

**Forging a New Deal**

**Roosevelt’s’ First 100 Days**

The term New Deal refers to the reform programs of FDR’s administration that were aimed at combating the Great Depression. When FDR arrived in Washington D.C. congress took his landslide victory to mean that the American people wanted change. During the first 100 days of FDR’s administration congress passed nearly everything that FDR asked for.

FDR was a progressive president in that he took the federal government to places that it had never been before. He expanded the role of government in the lives of American government to an unprecedented extreme. His first step was to restore the American public’s confidence in its banking system. He declared a Bank Holiday in which banks were closed for four days while government bank inspectors came in and inspected the records of the bank to determine if it was stable and able to reopen. Each bank that opened back did so after the Federal government said it was sound enough to operate. This caused the people to feel secure about their banks ability to remain open so people kept their money in them. The Glass-Steagall Act of 1932 created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to insure bank deposits. The Federal Securities Act of 1932 required companies that offered stock to provide information about their finances. Then FDR took the currency on the Gold standard where every dollar had to be backed by a dollars worth of gold. This effectively devalued the dollar.

**Roosevelt’s plan for helping the American Family**

**Public relief Programs**

In May FDR persuaded congress to create the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA). This administration funded the numerous federal agencies that would be created to aid the people.

1. Public Works Programs
   1. Civil Works Administration (CWA) put the unemployed to work building public projects such as roads, bridges, parks, airports, and other public facilities.
   2. Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) put young unmarried men to work maintain forests, beaches, and parks. They lived in camps which they built where they were housed free of charge and meals were provided for them. They received medical care and job training while most of their money was sent home to help their families.
   3. National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) sought to help business to recover. The National Recovery Administration (NRA) regulated prices, wages, established federal codes, work conditions, production limits, and minimum wages in an attempt to help the economy to recover. The hope was to eliminate unfair competition and put people back to work.
   4. Public Works Administration (PWA) carried out public works such as the Coulee Dam and many other large public works projects.
   5. Federal Housing Administration (FHA) assisted in creating housing standards, to insure mortgages, and to stabilize the housing market. This is still in existence today.
   6. Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) tried to raise farm prices by paying farmers not to raise certain crops. Hoped that be lowering the supply of certain crops that it would raise the prices.
   7. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was created to aid farmers, bring in industry, and electricity to the least developed region of the U.S. the Tennessee River valley. This agency is still in existence today.
2. All of these programs were established in the hopes to either end the depression by giving people money to spend or to help the people to survive.
3. Roosevelt also made some ground breaking appoints in the first 100 days of his administration.
   1. FDR was the first president ever to appoint a woman to a cabinet position. He appointed Francis Perkins to the position of Secretary of Labor. She pressed for laws that would help wage earners and the unemployed.
   2. Mary McLeod Bethune was appointed the Director of the Division of Negro Affairs which was the highest position held by an African-American during the New Deal.

**The Second New Deal**

Many of the New Deal programs were not success and many more would be declared illegal by the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court felt that the FDR’s New Deal programs went too far in given the Federal government control over people’s lives and business practices. So New Programs were created.

1. Rural Electrification Administration was created to bring electricity to the country side. It aides local rural electrical associations to be created to bring electricity cheaply to the rural areas. It offered loans to help build power lines and help people to wire their homes.
2. Wagner Act legalized collective bargaining and closed shops given the union power in labor negotiations. With the ability to create closed shops labor unions could insure that only members of its union could work in that industry. This gave them power at the negotiation table when only their members could work in that factory. Industry owners could no longer bring in scab workers or hire non-union members to work.
3. The Social Security System was created during this time. It was to provide old age pensions for people and survivor benefits. Over the years this system had been self funding but with the baby boomers leaving the work place and congress borrowing money from the system to pay for other programs the Social Security System is in danger of not being able to meet its obligations in the near future.

**Critics of the New Deal**

**Women**

Women felt that the New Deal put women at a disadvantage. The country still felt that men were the bread winners. Men and boys receive strong preference when it came to selecting people for the jobs created by the New Deal programs.

**African-Americans**

Federal relief programs, especially in the south, reinforced segregation policies. Very few African-Americans benefitted from these programs. Because Social Security did not cover domestic or farm workers it failed to cover nearly 2/3s of working African-American. Nor did it insure that there was fairness in the hiring policies. Also during the depression African-Americans faced the loose of their jobs as they were fired so a white could be hired. But still FDR was popular among African Americans because he still seemed to be concerned about the plight of African Americans and he appointed blacks to government jobs.

**Political Critics**

Some politicians felt that the new went too far and made the government to involved in the lives of its citizens. Others opposed the New Deal because they felt that it did not do enough. That the New Deal programs did not provided enough help.

**Other Critics of the New Deal**

**Demagogues –** some were people who manipulated the people with half-truths, deceptive promises, and scare tactics.

Father Coughlin- A Catholic priest who was a dynamic speaker, he used the radio to broadcast his message. He advocated nationalism and supported the likes of Hitler and Mussolini. By the 1930s he was openly preaching against Jews and immigrants. The Church Finally pulled him from the air in 1942.

Huey Long- a senator from Louisiana who originally supported FDR but eventually turned away from his policies because he felt that the New Deal did not go far enough. He believed in the redistribution of wealth. He felt that that anything who made over a million dollars should have the extra wealth taken by the government and given to the people. He felt that each family should be guaranteed a minimum of $5,000 household estate and a minimum income of $2,500.

**Court Packing**

FDR was upset with the U.S. Supreme Court because it had declared so many of his programs unconstitutional. He asked Congress to allow him to appoint as many as six additional Justices to the Supreme Court which would give him a majority on the court and protect his programs. Congress recognized what he was trying to do and they refused to give him the authority.

**The Last Days of the New Deal**

Did the New Deal work? That is a questions that historians have been asking since the Great Depression. If you were to ask did the New Deal end the depression the answer would be no but what it did do was to help people to endure the Great Depression. There is even the argument that the New Deal programs may have lengthened the Great Depression. But what can be truly said about the New Deal was that it provided people jobs and hope in a time when they had very few opportunities for hope. Unions during this time gained in power as people lost jobs and they were searching for anyone to help them. The number of strikes rose during the depression and unions gained even more power. But the New Deal did get people to thinking that it was the responsibility of the Federal Government to assure that people had the a minimum standard of living. Programs like the TVA, Social Security, and some others survive to this day. The Great Depression opened the way for more federal government involvement in people’s lives.

**The Road To War: World War II**

**The Rise of Dictators**

**The Soviet Union and the rise of Stalin**

When Lenin died in 1924 Joseph Stalin came to power in the Soviet Union. He abandoned the plans that Lenin had developed and started out on a introducing a series of New Five Year plans. He wanted to modernize agriculture and to establish heavy industry in the Soviet Union. To modernize agriculture Stalin combined farms into collectives where many different farming families worked. There was resistance to this plan but Stalin used to force to make people do what he wanted. To punish the resistant farmers Stalin confiscated or took nearly all that they produced which caused difficulties for the farmers and their families. Many starved because the government did not leave them enough to survive on. Millions more fled to the cities looking for work. Stalin sent nearly 5 million people who opposed him to labor camps in Siberia. The process of collectivization caused severe food shortages all over the Soviet Union causing Stalin to ration to the food.

It would be in industry where Stalin would achieve the most success with his five year plans. He assigned millions of labors from rural areas to build and work in factories where iron, steel, oil, coal were produced. Because Stalin elected to spend in industrializing the Soviet people had to endure many hardships yet Stalin did achieve his goal the Soviet Union was turned into a modern industrial power.

**Stalin Purges**

Stalin completed his political domination of the Soviet Union by eliminating those who opposed him and those he saw as a threat to his remaining in power. The removal of his enemies or future potential enemies is known as purges. He also used the secret police to search out anyone who he thought might be an enemy and either killed them or sent them to work camps in Siberia. In fact because of his purges and fears the Soviet Union was not prepared for World War II.

**The Rise of Mussolini and Fascism**

Benito Mussolini was a veteran of WWI and he was dissatisfied with the results of the Treaty of Versailles. He believed that Italy should have received more from Germany than it had. Mussolini began to attract many war veterans and others who opposed monarchy, socialism, and anarchy. He relied on gangs of Fascist thugs to get his people into power within the local governments. By 1922 Mussolini and Fascists were so powerful that when he threatened to march of Rome the king appointed him Prime Minister.

Italy’s economy was in shambles after the war and as the Great Depression hit it further depressed the economy in Italy. Many people felt that the Democratic government was incapable of dealing with the problems brought on by the Depression. They say different political parties fighting with each other and not working to bring help to the people. When Mussolini seized control of the Italian government, outlawed political parties, suspended elections and declared himself Dictator many Italians supported him. Mussolini was able to improve the Italian economy as IL Duce (the leader). Mussolini had a vision of being able to recreate the Roman Empire and to do this he invaded the Ethiopian kingdom in Africa. The Ethiopian resisted and the King of Ethiopia even went to League of Nations to seek help but the League was unable to stop Mussolini’s invasion. No one was willing to stop trading with Italy because their economies needed the money that trade with Italy provided.

**The Rise of Hitler**

Hitler was an Austrian that had served in the German Army during WWI. He like Mussolini was dissatisfied with the Versailles Treaty. He felt that it was unfair toward Germany. In 1919 Hitler joined a small band of men who were veterans of the war which would become the National Socialist German Workers Party which would become the Nazi party. Nazism is a form of Fascism infused with Hitler’s belief that the German people were racial superior to all other races. He was a powerful public speaker and he soon became the spokesman for the party.

In 1923 Hitler attempts to over throw the German republican government and he and his top followers were imprisoned for 6 months to a year. It would be while he was in prison that Hitler would write Mein Kampf. In this book Hitler sets the foundation for the ideology of the Nazi Party and first mentions the final solution to the Jewish problem. Hitler was anti-Semitic and he blamed the Jews for the loose of WWI, the financial problems the world was going through and everything bad that had happened in Europe. When the Great Depression struck in the early 1930s the German economic collapsed. It was dependent on American investors and once that investment stopped the German economy failed. People lost jobs, homes, families were torn apart, and people were desperate for someone to save them.

In 1932 Hitler’s party won the largest number of seats in the German Reichstag making Hitler very powerful. The German President in 1933 made Hitler Chancellor. After becoming Chancellor Hitler soon moved very quickly to consolidate power into his hands by suspending the freedom of speech and press. He sent his Nazi thugs the Brown Shirts or Storm Troopers out into the streets to intimidate and use fear to make people do what he wanted. By 1934 Hitler has become the Der Fuhrer (the leader).

Once Hitler becomes the dictator of Germany he quickly begins to rearm Germany. This began to produce jobs for people as men were needed to fill out the ranks of the military, guns needed to be made so too uniforms, planes, tanks, jeeps, truck, and everything else an army needed to operate. This put even more of the unemployed back to work. People were happy because they once again were working. They over looked a lot of things that Hitler did because they had jobs and homes once again.

In 1936 even though the German army was not ready for war, Hitler once again broke the Versailles Treaty by not only rearming the German military but by reoccupying the Rhineland. Great Britain and France failed to enforce the Treaty and Hitler began to feel that he could do what he wanted because the allies would not bother him. Soon He began to expand the German borders. In March 1938 when brought Austria into the German fold. Then a few months later he started making threats against the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia. This was a strip of land belonging to Czechoslovakia where its inhabitants spoke German. Hitler started to make noise about Germans should only be ruled by Germans. The Prime Ministers of France and Great Britain met with Hitler to try to work out a solution. Neville Chamberlain was the British Prime Minister. He and the rest of Europe did not want to see war so Chamberlain agreed to let Hitler have the Sudetenland if he would not attack the rest of Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovakian leader was not consulted even though he was there. When Chamberlain arrived back in Britain he declared peace in our time but Winston Churchill said there would be war.

**Europe Goes to War**

**Invasion of Poland**

Hitler had made a secret pact with Stalin that divided Poland between the two of them. In September of 1939 Hitler orders the German military machine to invade Poland. The German Blitzkrieg quickly overwhelms the Polish army. Great Britain and France do declare war on Germany and World War II has begun. With the fall of Poland nothing happened. Great Britain and France held back their troops fearing significant losses. For the next several months both sides sat and waited to see what the other would do. On April 9 1940 the German army attacks. Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxemburg fell. The French had been depending on its Maginot line to defend itself from German invasion but once again the Germans would be coming through Belgium. The French and British forces were cut off and pushed back into the city of Dunkirk located on a peninsula. It would be here that in 9 days in late May and early June that one of the greatest rescues in history would occur. The British government sent a call out for any boats or ships that could enter the Dunkirk harbor to come and help get their troops home. Under attack from the German Air force these civilian ships managed to transport some 340,000 troops across the English Channel to Great Britain thereby saving the army of Great Britain. On June 10 of 1940 France fell and Hitler put in a puppet government that was favorable to the Germans. Great Britain was now alone in the war.

Hitler in 1940 had conquered most of Western Europe and was on the verge of destroying the allies when he made a vital mistake. Hitler decided that instead of sending troops over the Channel to conquer Great Britain he would allow the German Luftwaffe to defeat Great Britain. Then instead of waiting to see the fall of Great Britain Hitler decides to invade Russia breaking his agreement with Stalin. The British would wage a stout defense during the battle for Britain and refused to surrender. This would cause Hitler to have to fight a two front war once again when he attacked the Soviet Union. This would be the first major mistake Hitler would make during the war]

**Japan Builds an Empire**

After World War I Japan had acquired many of the colonies of Germany in the Pacific. In fact Japan had by the beginning of WWI had established itself as the strongest nation in Asia and one of the most powerful nations in the world. During WWI Japan had joined the Allies and played a minor military role in the war. It had conquered several German possessions in Pacific and won access to markets that had been abandoned by the Europeans due to the war. In the 1920s as democracies struggled to answer the problems of the global depression Japan’s economy suffered because it depended on selling their goods to foreign countries. During the Depression Japan’s trading partners put high tariffs on Japanese goods to protect their own business interests. This further hurt the Japanese economy. Japan suffered massive layoffs, strikes, and widespread discontent. Many Japanese, as in other countries, blamed the democratic government for their problems.

As things worsened economically the government began to listen more to the military than to their political advisors. Military leaders gained unheard of support from the Japanese government until finally the military felt that it could do no wrong and that it was actually in charge. In 1932 in spite of being told not to the Japanese army invaded Chinese province of Manchuria and turned it into a puppet state. The United States and Great Britain both protested this but they did not act to halt this invasion not did the League of Nations prove effective since Japan pulled out of it when it attempted to order the Japanese to leave Manchuria. This greatly increased the militaries power in the Japanese government. The navy helped to assassinate the prime minister of Japan in 1932. After this time they had a firm control over the government.

**U.S. Involvement in World War II**

**U.S. Embraces Neutrality at start of war**

In 1932 FDR was more concerned with lifting the U.S. out of the Great Depression than a war in Europe. FDR was focused on domestic issues instead of foreign issues. In fact American leaders and people were even more isolationist than any other time after WWI. People were suffering during the depression and events occurring in Europe were not relevant to the people who were focused on survival. In 1930 in an attempt to protect American business Congress passed the Hawley-Smoot Tariff. In beginning in 1935 as the war heated up in Europe Congress began to pass a series of Neutrality Acts specifically designed to keep American from once again being drawn into another war in Europe. Two more were passed one in 1936 and the final in 1937. The 1937 act allowed trade with warring countries only if the paid cash and carried it on their own ships. This was known as the cash and carry policy.

**America become more involved in war**

As Germany and Japan became more aggressive and the economy began to get better the isolationist feeling began to decline. Once Germany invaded Poland more and more people began to become more sympathetic to Great Britain. President Roosevelt began to look for other ways in which he could aid Great Britain especially after France falls. FDR goes to Congress and get them to loosen up the Neutrality Acts which they did by repealing the arms embargo, allowing American merchant ships to hall the cargo to lending the allies money.

FDR also worked a deal where Great Britain received 50 older destroyers from the U.S. and the U.S. received permission to use British bases for resupply by naval ships. Then in 1940 the Congress passed the Lend Lease Act which allowed the U.S. to lease military supplies to the allies. America agreed to lend them to Great Britain because at that time Great Britain was going through a financial crisis.

**Japan’s Attack on Pearl Harbor**

During the summer of 1940 the U.S. and Japan had been working to fix its broken relationship. During this time Japan was preparing to invade the U.S. at Pearl Harbor. On Dec. 7, 1941 Japan attacks the naval base at Pearl Harbor. Some 2,400 Americans were killed, 1,200 were wounded, some 200 war planes were destroyed, and 18 war ships were damaged or sunk, while Japan lost only 29 planes. The naval strength of the U.S. in the Pacific was heavily damaged especially since many ships had been sent to the Atlantic fleet. On Dec. 8 1941 the U.S. declares war on Japan. In turn on Dec 11 1941 Germany and Italy declares war on America since Japan was a member of the Triple Alliance. America was now at war. Instead of crushing the American spirit the Attack on Pearl Harbor had awakened a sleeping Giant.

**America Goes To War (World War II)**

**Mobilization**

Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii President FDR realized the United States would eventually enter World War II. He also understood that the U.S. was not prepared for a war so in September 1940 FDR was able to get Congress to pass the Selective Training and Service Act which required all males between the ages of 21 to 36 to register for military service. Then a limited number of men from this pool were selected to serve in the military for a year. The government was building a pool of men who were already trained and prepared to go to war if it proved necessary. When Pearl Harbor was attacked on Dec. 7 1941 the United States still was not as prepared for war as was needed but it was in more prepared than it had been.

World War II greatly changed the lives of the American people. Many were uprooted from their homes to go and fight far from America. They called themselves G.I.s, which stood for government issue, because everything they had, was issued to them by the government. American from all ethnic and racial backgrounds would serve in this war. Each played a role in winning the war. It would be in this war when the army would desegregate by 1942 and African-Americans and White Soldiers were serving together in the same unit. Some 350,000 women joined the military serving in capacities that allowed men to go and fight. They were nurses, clerks, mechanics, and any other job that was not a combat position.

**Preparing the Economy for War**

When the U.S. entered the war the economies of our allies were suffering. The production levels in Great Britain were down due to the bombing raids of the Germans and the Soviet Union was fleeing from the German advances, while Japanese conquest in the Pacific threatened supplies of rubber, oil, and tin. FDR pushed factories to quickly move into the production of war equipment.

In January of 1942 after the bombing of Pearl Harbor the government set up the War production board whose job was to oversee the conversion of peace time industries to war production. The production of much of the civilian goods were halted and factories began to turn out fighter planes, bombers, jeeps, tanks, trucks, guns, and other material that a nation at war would need. The Ford Motor company built a huge new factory to build B-24 Liberator bombers using the assembly line to mass produce them. Henry J. Kaiser brought the assembly line technology to ship building and began to mass produce the Liberty cargo ships. By 1944 the U.S. production levels doubled that of all the Axis nations.

World War II also benefited the minority in many ways also. Due to the need for such a massive amount of war material factories were in need of workers. So many men were off fighting that jobs that normally not available for women and African-Americans were suddenly available. These opportunities proved that African-Americans and women could handle those jobs. A barrier had been broken. Also these new jobs paid good and for the first time since the Great Depression had begun people had money to spend. The only problem they did not have anything to spend it on.

The government had to pay for the cost of the war. Taxes were raised and the government began to sell war bonds. Through the use of propaganda the government was able to convince the people of the U.S. that it was a patriotic duty to buy war bonds. People could purchase them at work, school children could buy them in school, and war bonds were available in many places so that people from all walks of life could take part in them. But the United States still was unable to pay for all the material that it was producing and sending of to battle. It still had to carry a $259 billion debt in 1945 to pay for the war.

Here on the home front the people of the United States had to sacrifice to fight a total war. The government began to rations things such as tires, gasoline, sugar and many others so that our allies and soldiers could have them on the front. Each family received a ration book and only the items on that day could be purchased if they had a coupon for it. People were willing to sacrifice for the winning of the war.

During this time of rationing and government control of the economy there was not a whole lot for people to spend their money on. They began to purchase books, magazines,

records, went to baseball games, and many went to the movies. People planted victory gardens to grow their own food which meant more food was available to be either sent to our allies and boys overseas. The war became a part of everyday life for people. Stars were placed in people’s windows to show the number of men from that house that was serving in the war. People took pride in being an American. Boy and girl scouts went around to collect scrap metal, people were encouraged to car pool to conserve on gas. The government was encouraging people to conserve and collect, to use it us it up, and wear it out. People felt they were making an important contribution to the war effort.

**The Battle for Europe**

After the attack on Pearl Harbor and America’s entrance into the war there was a battle for control of the Atlantic Ocean. Prior to the U.S. entrance into the war the German submarines were very successful in limiting the amount of supplies that were getting through to the allies in Europe. Allied ships lead by American and British war ships conveyed to have a better chance of making it to Europe. By the end of 1942 the German control of the Atlantic was being broken as more and more U-boats were sunk. This allowed more supplies to arrive in Great Britain.

By May 1943 the Germans were in retreat in Africa and some 240,000 German and Italian soldiers surrendered in Tunisia. Churchill and FDR meet in Casablanca Morocco and once again agreed to keep concentrating on taking out the Nazis in Europe before turning their attention on to Japan. Once they allies had gained control of Africa now they could look to Europe. They decided to target Italy. Once the allies invaded Italy Hitler rushed German forces there to support the Italians. By this time many Italian soldiers were dissatisfied with Mussolini and did not want to continue to fight. Many surrendered.

The war in the Soviet Union was not doing so good at first. The Soviet forces fell back on old traditional fighting methods. They began to retreat deeper into the Soviet Union burning of crops towns, houses, factories, and anything that aid the enemy. The soviets were waiting on it greatest ally to show up, winter. The German army made tremendous advances into the Soviet Union even laying siege to St. Petersburg. Then the winter set in. The German troops were not prepared for the harsh winters of the Soviet Union. Their summer uniforms were not thick enough to withstand the brutal winters. Many German troops froze to death during the Soviet winter and their weapons froze. This is when the Soviets counter attack. Their soldiers were equipped to withstand the winters of the Soviet Union.

Once the Americans entered the war, war material and man power began to flow to Europe. The allies began to bomb Germany. They used a concept called carpet bombing where hundreds of bombers flying in formation would drop bombs in mass on targets. Entire cities were devastated and Germany ability to produce war material was drastically hurt. Then in June 1944 the allies invaded France at the beaches of Normandy. They were able to gain a foothold and began to push into France. France was liberated by August 25, 1944. Then in Dec. 1944 Germany launched a final and desperate counter attack known as the battle of the Bulge. The Germans were defeated and the race was on for Berlin. Soviet forces were advancing for the east and allied forces from the west. April 1945 Soviet troops fought their way into Berlin. On April 30, 1945 Hitler commits suicide, and on May 8 Germany surrenders. In Feb. 1945 the Big Three leaders had meet in Yalta Yugoslavia to discuss Germany’s defeat and the shape of the postwar world. Churchill, Stalin, and FDR agreed to divide Europe into 4 zones each controlled by one of the four major powers, Soviet Union, France, Great Britain, and the United States. Stalin promised free and democratic elections in the zones controlled by the Soviet Union but he did not abide by his promise which is the reason why the Cold war would start.

**The Holocaust**

When Hitler came to power he begun to persecute the Jewish people. He began to force them to live in ethnic neighborhoods, restricting them to only certain professions, and attacking their business. Eventually the Nazi party would begin to round the Jewish population up and began to ship them to concentration camps. Also other undesirables such as Gypsies, the mental impaired, the disabled, homosexuals, and deviants were rounded up and sent to the concentration camps. It would be here that the final solution to the Jewish problem would be implemented. Some six million Jews would lose their lives here along with 5 to 6 million other people.

Once the allies liberated these death camps and seen the horror German leaders were placed on trial to face war crime charges. These trials were held at the city of Nuremberg and they became known as the Nuremberg Trials. 12 Nazi leaders received the death sentence and others received prison time. It established the principle that individuals must be responsible for their own actions and the defense of I was just following orders was rejected by the world.

The Holocaust would aid the Jews in their quest for the establishment of a homeland. The horrors of the death camp shocked the Western world and when created the new nation of Israel the United States was quick to recognize it.

**The War in the Pacific**

After the attack on Pearl Harbor the Japanese then began to attack other American military bases in the Pacific. The Japanese was hoping that they could discourage the Americans and they would withdraw from the region leaving the Japanese in control. The Japanese were hoping to have easy access to the oil and other resources found in the Pacific region. The Japanese war machine was very successful at the beginning. They swept aside British and American forces. The Japanese then turned their attention to the Philippines. Some 11,000 American and Filipinos soldiers were captured. They were then sent on Bataan Death March were some 10,000 died on this march and after arriving at the prison camp some 15,000 more died.

The civil war that was being fought in China during this time was put on hold by the two sides while they joined together to fight a common enemy. Japan captured huge portions of China but the Chinese were never defeated. India and Australia was in danger of falling.

The American Pacific fleet was devastated after the attack on Pearl Harbor but it was all that stood between Japan’s total domination of the Pacific. In April 1942 a group of b-24 bombers took off from aircraft carriers led by Colonel Doolittle to raid Japan. This caused a shock to the Japanese for the first time their country faced an attack and it boosted the allied moral.

In may 1942 engaged the Japanese fleet I the Battle of the Coral Sea. The Japanese lost this battle. In June 1942 at the Battle of Midway the Japanese naval strength in the Pacific was broken. This allowed the allies to take the offensive. In August 1942 the allies began to push toward Japan. At the Battle of Guadalcanal the fighting was ferocious and it showed the devastation that both sides were going to face as the allies moved to victory.

The allied command developed the strategy of island hopping to make their way toward Japan. Since the allies now controlled the Pacific the idea was that they could leave the Japanese forces on some islands and they could not go anywhere. The Philippines were freed, and then in Feb. 1945 the invaded Iwo Jima the fighting here was terrible as the Japanese fought to the last man to prevent the Americans from invading mainland Japan. The Battle of Okinawa in April through June made the American high command the cost of taking Japan.

FDR dies and his Vice-president Truman becomes president. Truman is briefed on the nuclear bomb and he decides to use the bomb to try to end the war and potentially save millions of lives that an invasion would bring. On August 6, 1945 an American plane the Enola Gay dropped a single atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. August 9, 1945 a second bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. On Aug. 14 the Japanese surrendered. The war is over.

**The Social Impact of the War**

In 1941 industries were searching for millions of workers to meet the demand for war goods. Still 1in 5 African-Americans remained jobless. As the war progressed more and more were able to get jobs and they began to share in some of the wealth. In the military segregation was the norm. Japanese Americans faced persecution and many on the West coast were rounded up and sent to concentration camps where they remained for the war. They lost their homes and businesses and they would have to wait until the 1990 before they were compensated for their loose. Japanese in the military were regulated to the European theater because of fear that they would give information to the Japanese. These Nisei troops served with distinction and valor in Europe. Women were able to step into roles that previously closed to them. They worked in factories and supervisory jobs that normally would not be available to them. At the end of the war women, African-Americans, and other minorities lost their jobs so that the returning soldiers could have their old jobs back. But women and African-Americans had a taste of the good life and the satisfaction of doing jobs that challenged them and they began to work for equal rights.

**The Origins of the Cold War**

**The Cold War**

The Cold War was a non-declared between the Western Democracies lead by the United States and the Socialist nations of Eastern Europe lead by the U.S.S.R. (Soviet Union). The political ideologies of both sides caused them to distrust each other and it would cause nearly a century of unrest and fear in the world. Both sides had atomic and eventually nuclear weapons and they had the capability of destroying civilization as we know it. People lived in fear of a nuclear holocaust. Much of this distrust between the two sides has its roots in World War II.

**1945 Setting the Stage for the Cold War**

The cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States was only a temporary thing. Ever since the Russian Revolution there had been difficult relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. After the Revolution there had been money deposited in U.S. banks by the Czar that the U.S. government froze and would not allow the communist government in Russia to get. The U.S. claimed it was Romanov money and the communist was claiming it for the Soviet Nation. Then the War occurred and both the U.S. and the Soviet Union was in need of allies. So they set aside their differences to fight a common enemy.

Another thing that caused the Soviet Union to distrust the West was that during the war Stalin kept encouraging the U.S. and Great Britain to open up a western front but the allies refused fearing that they were not ready to invade Europe. The Soviets felt that the U.S. and Great Britain were stalling hoping to either weaken the Soviet Union or that the Germans would cause the communist government to fall. The U.S. and Great Britain were still angry about the nonaggression pact the Soviet Union had signed with Germany before the war. So as the end to the war in Europe came closer the relationship between the two sides began to get tense.

Yalta Conference

Yalta was a city located in the nation of Yugoslavia and it was here where FDR, Churchill, and Stalin would meet to discuss the postwar plans for Europe. It was agreed that Germany would be divided up into 4 zones. The British zone, American zone, French zone, and the Soviet zone and the capital of Germany Berlin would also be divided into the same four zones. Stalin also agreed to allow free elections within those Eastern European nations that the Soviet Army had liberated from German control. Stalin failed to keep his promise in allowing free elections and this would cause a strain between the U.S. and Soviets for years to come.

The United Nations

**The United Nations**

All parties agreed that the United Nations needed to be established. It was to replace the League of Nations and its mandate was to keep the peace in the world. All member nations were part of the General Assembly and 11 countries sat on the Security Council where the real power was. Five of the seats on the Security Council are permanent seats which are Great Britain, United States, Soviet Union, France, and China each having veto power.

**FDR Dies**

On April 12, 1945 FDR dies and his Vice President Harry S. Truman becomes President. Truman was not prepared for becoming president because he had never been involved in major foreign policy discussions. Truman did not trust the Soviets and he especially did not trust Stalin. It was here that Truman told Stalin that the U.S had developed a weapon of extraordinary power and Stalin casual told him that he knew. Soviet spies had already told Stalin this. Stalin was worried about the U.S. new military advantage.

The Soviets and the U.S had conflicting postwar goals. The U.S. had fought to bring democracy to the nations of Europe and Asia and they hoped to see these realized at the end of World War II. A free world would provide trade and markets for U.S. industries. The Soviets on the other hand has as its goal the creation of a buffer zone between it and Europe. They made satellite nations out of the Eastern European nations it had liberated from German control and used its military to dominate them for the next seventy years. Stalin refused to allow the Soviet Union or its satellite nations to participate in the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund. Also they were not allowed to partake in the Marshall Plan to help rebuild Europe. Stalin used force to keep the satellite nations in line. Soviet troops put down rebellion and helped to keep communist regimes in power in Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Romania. Germany would remain a divided nation with a divided capital for the next 70 odd years.

When Winston Churchill made a speech at a U.S. college and said that Europe was divided by an Iron Curtain it set the tone for the Cold War. The lines were drawn and sides were created. Battles would be fought on many different fronts many of them not on the battle fields. Developing nations would become pawns in this war and there the battles would be fought.

**American Policies**

The policy of Containment was put forth by a U.S. diplomat assigned to the Soviet Union. George Kennan was the author of this policy. In a telegram to the U.S. State Department he proposed the U.S. contain communism to nations where it already existed and that by doing so communism would eventually be unable to sustain itself and go bankrupt and collapse. This is the policy that the U.S. followed.

Another policy from this era was the Truman Doctrine. Truman in a speech stated that the U.S. would aid any nation that was fighting communist insurrectionist and help insurrections in communist countries to win freedom. These two doctrines would lead the United States to become involved in many controversial conflicts around the world during the Cold War.

**The Cold War Heats Up**

**The Marshall Plan**

After World War Two Western Europe’s economy was devastated, whole cities were destroyed, people did not have jobs because of factories being destroyed by bombing raids during the war. The field was ripe for communist organizers to come in and create communist governments in Western Europe. To prevent anymore countries from becoming communist Secretary of State George Marshall developed a plan to help the nations of Europe to rebuild their economies and put people back to work. When people have jobs, homes, and families they are less likely to follow communist doctrine. It was believed that by aiding these European nations it would create strong democracies and provide markets in which the U.S. could sell its goods. The Soviet Union and its satellite nations were invited to participate in this plan but Stalin refused to let any Eastern European nation participate fearing that it would weaken communism. The U.S. gave European nations some $13 billion dollars to rebuild their nations and economy.

**The Berlin Airlift**

After the war the allies could not agree on what to do with Germany so the U.S., Great Britain, and France joined their zones together and created the Nation of West Germany the soviets created the Communist nation East Germany. Berlin the capital of both nations was also divided into West Berlin and East Berlin was actually located in Communist Germany. The Soviets did not want the Democratic government of West Germany located within East Germany’s borders so Stalin blockaded West Berlin. The only way for anything to get into West Berlin was through a narrow air corridor. The Soviets hoped that the allies would pull out of West Berlin and that they would then just take over. The U.S. set up flights into West Berlin that brought everything that the city needed to survive. Everything from food to gasoline, clothes to books, toys to candy and much more was flown in to keep the city running eventually the Soviets realized that the allies were not going to leave and they opened the city back up.

In response to this growing tension between the West and East the Western democracies created a security organization called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization whose purpose was to protect each other from a military invasion. An attack on one would be considered an attack on all. The Soviets responded a year later to this organization with the Warsaw pact made up of the Soviet Union and its satellite nations.

**Other Events that Heated up the Cold War**

In 1949 the Soviet Union exploded it first atomic bomb and the nuclear arms race was on. This began an era where the world feared nuclear holocaust. Also in 1949 the communist in China overthrow the democratic government which had fled to the island of Taiwan. This caused the Americans to fear communism even more. People were concerned that spies were giving secrets to the soviets and Congress passed the Loyalty program where new government employees had to be investigated by the FBI to insure that they were loyal to the U.S. and not a member of the communist party. For many people just being accused of supporting communism was detrimental to their job security. People lost their jobs because no one wanted to be associated with a communist. Even though they may have been eventually cleared the damaged was already done.

Congress in response to the new red scare created the House Un-American Committee (HUAC) to begin a postwar probe on communist infiltration of government and Hollywood. In September and October of 1947 HUAC called a number of Hollywood producers, writer, and actors to Washington and accuses them of being communist. There were ten actors who refused to cooperate with this committee and invoked their constitutional right not to speak. They were fined and jailed some up to a year. Hollywood fearing the HUAC created a blacklist barring these actors from working in Hollywood. Just being accused of being a communist often lead to people losing their jobs and homes even if they are later cleared the damage to their careers and reputations was already done.

Another event that fueled this paranoia was two spy cases that came to trial at this time. The first was the case of Alger Hiss who had been a prominent leader in the state department before he left government. He was accused of being a spy for the communist. In 1950 he went to prison for four years for lying to a federal grand jury. He could not be sentenced for spying since it too late to try him for those crimes. The second case was the Rosenberg case. Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were accused of selling the secrets of the atomic bomb to the Soviets. Ethel was a housewife and Julius worked on the atomic project. They were found guilty and executed for their crimes. Many historians debated over the years if the individual in these two cases were guilty but secret documents later uncovered at the end of the Cold War showed that they were.

**The Korean Conflict**

One of the areas where communism expanded after World War II was in Asia. In the mid-1920s the Nationalist part in China under the leader of Jiang Kieshi took over China. The communist party was lead by Mao Zedong and he was popular with the people because of his treatment of them. In 1949 the Nationalist were forced out of China and a communist government with Mao Zedong as the leader. The Nationalist fled to the island of Taiwan where they established the democratic government of China. Communist China does not recognize Taiwan as an independent nation even to this day.

Another area where the communist and the west faced off was the Korean peninsula. At the end of World War I Japan was given several of the Pacific possessions of Germany and Korea was one of those. Koreans hoped that at the end of World War II it would once again gain its independence. What happened was that the allies never did discuss what they were going to do with the territory liberated from Japan so in Korea Japanese troops north of the 38th parallel surrendered to Soviet forces and those south of the 38th parallel surrendered to American forces. So what happened was that a pro American government was created south of the 38th parallel and a communist government was established in North Korea.

Both sides in Korea dreamed of uniting the country and finally in June 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea. President Truman was alarmed by this action and called on the United Nations to do something. The Security Council voted to protect South Korea and it went through because the Soviets had walked out of the U.N. in protest of America’s refusal to allow Communist China to become a part of the U.N. and the Security Council. General John MacArthur was in charge of this action. Truman never went to congress for a formal declaration of war so it is police action not a true war.

MacArthur landed at Inchon and cut the North Korean supply lines. The North Koreans fled back across the 38th parallel and MacArthur continued to push. The Chinese warned the Americans not come to its borders and MacArthur ignored them. The Chinese flood across the river and China was now in this war because it did now want see South Korea to win and have a democratic nation on its borders.. MacArthur was fired by Truman for disobeying orders and he was greeted back home as a hero.

**Effect of the Korea War**

Americans began to mistrust their government, we see a rise in the war industries as the U.S. government began to spend more and more money on military. Also people had to get used to the idea of permanent mobilization of American troops in different parts of the world to counter act the communist presence. Japan became a strategic part of the plan on how to contain communism.

**The Cold War at Home and Elsewhere**

**McCarthyism**

This was started by a senator from Wisconsin by the name of John McCarthy. He used bully tactics to accuse people of being communist. They were usually his enemies and people who did not do what he wanted. McCarthy in 1954 began to accuse the military of harboring communist and an investigation was conducted and aired on the new media T.V. People watched in horror as they realized that most of McCarthy’s accusation had no bases. He lost his supporters and he soon faded from history.

President Eisenhower felt that the U.S. did not need to get into a shooting war with the Soviet Union so he followed the containment policy even though his Secretary of State Dulles wanted to face the Soviet Union. Also the U.S. was sending aid to France to help it keep its colony of Vietnam and when the French pulled out the U.S. sent advisors, money, and war equipment to South Vietnam. The U.S. supported South Vietnam even though its government was brutal and corrupt.

In the Middle East the United States policy was to try to lessen the influence of the Soviet influence in the region. When Israel declared itself a nation and the Arab nations attacked and Israel was able to defend itself and defeat the Arab nations. The U.S. supported Israel and the Soviet Union supported the Arabs. President Eisenhower announced his doctrine which said that the U.S. would use force to safeguard the independence of any country or group of countries in the Middle East requesting aid against communist aggression.

**Latin America**

The CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) caused the overthrow of several countries regimes that were not favorable to the U.S. also the U.S. created the Organization of American States (OAS). This time period and the U.S. heavy handed tactics has caused many Latin America Countries to not trust the U.S.

**Arms Race**

The conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States caused both countries to try and outdo each other in the production of war machines and weapons. Both countries began to stockpile nuclear arms. And the U.S. began to practice the policy of Brinkmanship. This is a policy in which the U.S. had to convince the Soviet Union it would be willing to go to war. The soviets depended on missiles to send war heads to two the U.S. in case of war while the U.S. depended on planes to deliver its pay load. In 1957 the Soviets used one of its missiles to launch a satellite into space called the **sputnik.** This alarmed many in America and caused President Kennedy to call on the federal and state government to fund math and sciences so that we could send a man to the moon by the end of the 1960s. Then when the Soviets shot down the U2 spy plane it once again showed the need for the U.S. to develop its own missile program and caused the U.S. to expend considerable amounts of resources.

**Postwar Years in the United States**

**Postwar Economy**

**Business Reorganization**

During the years following World War II the United States experienced one of its greatest economic expansions in its history. Corporations expanded and companies took advantage of the research and development that the war had inspired. Many new products were introduced to the civilian market that had been developed for the war effort. Some examples would be radar and computers that was introduced into the work place. Other corporations coming out of the Great Depression had learned some hard lessons and they diversified their holdings by buying companies from dissimilar fields hopping that if the economy got bad again one of their companies could help support the others. This is called a conglomerate ( a corporation made up of three or more unrelated businesses).

Another type of business form developed and became very popular and it was called a franchise. Ray Kroc developed this business model when he purchased a fast food restaurant run by two brothers in California. They had taken the idea of the assembly line and put it into the making of hamburgers and other fast food. He then sold franchises to other people. A franchise allows those who purchase them to the company’s logo, advertisement, name recognition, products, and equipment. The Corporation gets a percentage of the profits and the owner benefits from being associated with a brand name that people recognize and like. Ray Kroc purchased the right to keep the restaurant’s name McDonalds. In many ways the franchise idea helped the economy to expand but it did hurt many small businesses as the franchise system grew independent business owners were not often able to compete with them.

**Technology Changes America**

After the war people had money and they wanted to purchase the new products such as dishwashers, gas powered lawn mowers, and T.V. businesses rushed to produce them and the other new products. American developed a love affair with the latest and best that is still going on today. After World War II Americans fell in love with the television, the technology for TV. has been since the twenties it did not take off until after World War II. People cited TV. ability to babysit children with shows like Howdy Doody, the Mickey Mouse Club, and many others. Families enjoyed night entertainment following shows like I love Lucy and Father Knows Best. These shows helped to create an image of the perfect American Family.

After the war companies began to use computers in the businesses. When scientist at Bell Telephone Laboratories developed the transistor it revolutionized the electronic industry. No longer did companies have to depend on large space consuming vacuum tubes. Electronics could not be built smaller. Where once a computer took up a whole basement know it could sit on a desk.

A new form of power was introduced to the public in the 1950s. in 1954 the navy introduced its first nuclear powered submarine. That technology would be used by the civilian world to develop nuclear power plants to produce electricity for homes and businesses. Another area where advances were made was in medicine. Dr. Salk developed a polio vaccine and doctors started using and developing antibiotics to help fight infection and to cure people. Also doctors who served in the war began to use the skills they had developed in trauma to the civilian hospitals and advances were made in heart surgeries and other areas.

**Changing Work Place and Work Force**

After World War II jobs in America began to shift. As more and more manual labor was taken over by machines and computers people began to train for other types of jobs. Where before the war most Americans were blue collar workers (manual labors) after World War II the job market changed and more became white collar jobs. They began to work in offices and service industries. Many found new opportunities to move up in the corporate ladder but workers had less connection to their jobs than before.

As people moved into new jobs and better pay they took opportunities to move out into the suburbs. Many men took advantage of the G.I. bill to get mortgages for new homes and to go to college. The baby boom that had began during the war continued. Men like William Levitt took advantage of the people being able to get mortgages and began to build houses using mass building techniques. This helped to keep cost down but all homes were similar and there were very little differences in house with a subdivision.

With more people moving out to the suburbs and business such as department stores following them the need for better highways arose. The suburbs were too far away for public transportation so people had to depend on their cars more. Congress passed the Federal Highway Act in 1956 to create a system of federal highways that crisscrossed the country and went from border to border and coast to coast. The idea was to help people evacuate cities in case of nuclear attack.

To purchase all these new goods people once again began to use credit. Gas companies were the first to introduce a credit card. As more and more people began to drive the companies began to issue gas cards so that people could purchase their gas on credit and pay it off later. Other business wanted to get in on this so they began to issue store cards and some banks began to issued credit cards such as the Dinners Club, American Express, Visa, and Master Card. Consumer debt rose from $8 billion in 1946 to $56 billion in 1960.

**The Mood of the 1950s**

**Comfort and Security**

The general feeling of happiness and comfort was curtailed by the threat of nuclear war. The youth of the 1950s were affected. They are called the “silent generation” because they did not seemed to be interested in the problems of the larger world. The strong economy of the 1950s allowed for more and more students to stay in school and graduate. Prior to this, male students often dropped out of school to find jobs to help support their families. But with the strong economy students could stay in school and get part time jobs. Businesses also began to target youth in advertising realizing a potential area for profit. Shows like Father Knows Best began to define the styles of the 1950s teenager. Girls were shown in bobby socks and poodle skirts and boys in letter sweaters, t-shirts and rolled up jeans. Girls collected silver and linens in anticipation of marriage soon after they graduated high school.

Adults responded to the threat of nuclear war by going back to church. The 1950s saw a resurgence of church attendance. The threat of nuclear war made everyone seek security and the church benefited from this.

**The Roles of Men and Women in the 1950s**

During this time period men were seen as the bread winner earning the money to take care of their families. Women played a supporting role staying home raising the children and taking care of the house. Middle class women became involved in charities and civic organizations. But some women did not want this type of life. They wanted to work so we began to see more and more women working and staying at work after marriage. Most of them held jobs such as secretaries, nurses, teachers, and clerks in stores.

The 1950s also was a time when many youth began to rebel against the morals and values of their parents. They felt misunderstood and alone. Rock and Roll became a popular musical form among the youth of the 1950s and many parents and churches opposed it. They felt that it would lead the youth to do things that the parents or church did not want them to do. Also many opposed rock and roll because of its roots in the blues and rhythm music of African America. One of the most popular entertainers of rock and roll was Elvis Presley a young man originally from Tupelo MS. Others were Jerry Lee Lewis and Buddy Holly. Another group of American youth that went against the norm was the Beatniks of the 50s. They promoted spontaneity and spirituality. Beatniks challenged traditional norms by speaking openly about sexuality and the use of illegal drugs. The Beatniks were the foreshadowers of the hippies of the next generation.

**Domestic Policies of the U.S.**

**Peacetime Economy**

During World War II most Americans were unable to access a lot of consumer goods because the nation was on war production. Once the war was over they wanted those goods and they wanted them right then. But as the industries converted back over to peacetime production inflation began to creep in. During the war workers had not receive pay increases so as prices rose wages did not. Workers demanded raise and more strikes occurred in 1946 than at any time before 1946. Because of the number of strikes Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act. This allowed the President to declare an 80 day cooling off period during which strikers had to return to work. But this act would only affect those industries that affected the national interest of the United States.

President Truman’s **Fair Deal** was another domestic policy of this period. Truman agreed with FDR that the government should play a more active role in securing economic justice for all Americans. At the end of the war he called for a program that would cause full employment, a higher minimum wage, greater unemployment compensation, housing assistance, and other reforms. Truman was opposed by the Southern democratic delegation to Congress and his fair deal was not as extensive as he would have liked it. He also call for the regulation for Atomic energy. At midterm elections the people were dissatisfied with the Democrats and the republicans took over both houses of Congress.

Truman was a southern boy who still had a lot of his racist beliefs that had been taught to him as a young boy. But as president Truman felt that he needed to be a president that represented all the people of the U.S. He end segregation in the military in 1948 by executive order. He was opposed by the Southern Democratic Congressional members when he attempted to have laws passed that would have address the issue of civil rights in America.

**Election of 1948**

During the election of 1948 it seemed that Truman would lose the election. He was not a popular president and the southern democrats had broken away from the democratic party and form another party called the Dixiecrats. And the liberal wing of the Democratic party with Henry Wallace who headed the Progressive ticket. The Republican nominated Thomas Dewey as their candidate. With the democrat vote split three ways it seemed that the Dewey was a sure win. Truman went out and campaigned calling the 80th republican congress the do nothing congress. Not only did he win but the democrats won back congress. Republicans frustrated at the long time control of the Democrats proposed an amendment to limit presidents to two terms. It was passed and ratified and today a person can only be president for two terms.

**Election of 1952**

Dwight Eisenhower was the Republican candidate and he won the election. Ike was determined to slow the growth of the federal government and he also wanted to limit the powers of the president. He felt that the office of president had acquired too much authority under FDR during the Great Depression and WW II. However he was not interested in completing reversing the New Deal. He intended to be conservative “when it comes to money” and liberal “when it comes to human beings.” Like most republican presidents Ike favored business and felt that the government should stay out of business.

When the Soviets launched the satellite Sputnik he encouraged congress to pass regulations that would support math and sciences. In 1958 Congress responded with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as an independent agency for space exploration. Also in 1958 Congress passed the National Defense Education Act designed to improve math and science education in high schools in the United States.

**Cold War**

**Vietnam War (1954-1975)**

**America’s Involvement**

During the war the allies funded and supplied Ho Chi Minh who was a communist leader of the Vietnamese and the head of the Independence of Vietnam commonly called the Vietminh. After World War II France tried to maintain control over Vietnam (known under French control as French Indochina). Finally in 1954 after the French suffered a defeat they gave up and left Vietnam. In a peace settlement attended by France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the U.S. it was agreed that Vietnam would be divided along the 17 Parallel into two separate nations. Ho Chi Minh became the President of the Communist North Vietnam and South Vietnam under the leadership of Ngo Dinh Diem. The Geneva agreement called for elections to unify the two countries but South Vietnam refused to follow this part of the agreement saying that North Vietnam would not hold free elections.

Since 1950 the U.S. had been providing aid to the French in Vietnam and to South Vietnam after its formation. By 1960 the U.S. had about 675 military advisors in Vietnam. When President Kennedy came into office he refused to allow another country fall to communism. Diem was corrupt and the money that the U.S. was sending to Vietnam was ending up not helping the people in into the pockets of Diem, his family, and corrupt officials in the government. The U.S. let the military now that it would not oppose a South Vietnam without Diem. In 1963 Diem was ousted and killed by a military overthrow.

After Kennedy’s assassination Johnson becomes president and he also commits to containing Communism where it already existed. But the war in Vietnam was hard to win because even though the U.S. had superior weapons and military technology we were fighting a war that we were not familiar with. The Vietcong and North Vietnamese knew the jungle and they used guerilla warfare. This drastically reduced the effectiveness of overwhelming man power, technology, and training. The Vietcong and Vietnamese dug tunnels throughout South Vietnam and they were able to move men and supplies through these tunnels. Also they were able to use the Ho Chi Minh trail to get supplies to the Vietcong. Even though the U.S. would bomb this trial and North Vietnam the U.S. was unable to effectively cut their supply line.

The North Vietnamese were able to make advances in the South in spite of the U.S. troop buildup. Johnson was able to get expanded presidential powers to lead the troops in Vietnam. He used the Gulf of Tonkin incident to get congress to pass the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution which gave the president the power to use all means necessary to repel any attack on U.S. troops. This never happened but the president used it to increase his power. This means that the president could send troops anywhere to protect American interests without getting the approval of Congress.

**War**

Vietnam was never a war but a conflict. Congress never drew up a declaration of war.