In a land of Plenty

Contentment and Discord

1945-1960
Securing the New Deal Legacy

- Truman’s Agenda- Fair Deal
  - Locked in Debate
    - National Health Care
  - Accomplished
    - Funded State Education
    - Increased min. wage (.40 to .75)
    - Increased social security, expanded rural power services (telephone) and public housing
  - Fair Deal failed largely because foreign affairs occupied Truman’s time/energy and increasing prosperity bred complacency plus, the Red Scare turned people from the left to the right
  - Foreshadowed JFK, LBJ, Clinton, and Obama agendas

- Election of 1952
  - Truman declines second term
  - Eisenhower Republican or Democrat
“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.” 1953

Securing the New Deal Legacy

• Eisenhower’s Agenda - Moderate
  – Budget Cutting
  – Govt. support for big business
  – Return of fed functions back to state and local govs. (undo New Deal)

Interstate Highway Act-1956
  – Grew the suburbs, heightened dependence on cars and oil, hastened decline of RR, began inner-city urban decay
  – Also began America’s love affair with the automobile and the road trip!
  – By 1970, we had the best roads in the world but the worst public transportation.

• Suez Crisis- 1956
• Kitchen Debates-1959
  – 1st talks between powers in four years
  – Khrushchev and Nixon debate merits of capitalism vs. communism on tv

• Fidel Castro- 1959
  – Fidel leads revolution against US supported DICTATORIAL government in Cuba
  – First order of business: kick out US economic interests in CUBA
  – Castro nationalized former US companies...Billions in US investment is lost.
  – Ike embargoes Cuban sugar and makes arrangement with CIA for the ‘elimination’ of Castro...(the first of about 12 attempts on his life!)

• U-2 Incident-1960
• Farewell Address
The Civil Rights Movement

• Jackie Robinson-MLB 1947
• Truman and Military
• Education
  – University
    • Sipuel v. Board of Regents of University of Oklahoma (1948)
    • McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents (1950)
• Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
  – Separate was not equal/violated 14th
  – SC-segregated schools unconst.
  – [Death of Emmett Till (1955)]
• Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-56)
  – Rosa Parks/NAACP
  – Martin Luther King Jr.
    • SCLC
  – Supreme Court-segregated buses unconstitutional
• Little Rock Nine, 1957
  – Major resistance to desegregation of schools in Arkansas (Fed govt vs. Arkansas)
  – Pres. Ike sent in 101st Airborne/not since Reconstruction had Fed. Troops been used to protect African-Americans
• Sit-ins Movement
  – Civil Disobedience: Jesus, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King Jr.
  – Clara Luper-1958
  – College Students desegregated lunch counters, movie theaters, and hotels.
    • North Carolina-1960
    • Nashville-1960
  – Students Non-Violence Coordinating Committee (SNCC)