Chapter Twenty-Six

The Cold War
1945-1952
Part One:

Introduction
The Cold War

- What does this poster indicate about the Cold War?
Chapter Focus Questions

- What were the prospects for world peace at the end of World War II?
- What was the diplomatic policy during the Cold War?
- What characterized the Truman presidency?
- What led to Anti-communism and McCarthyism?
- What characterized Cold War culture and society?
- What were the causes, battles, and results of the Korean War?
Part Two:
American Communities
In 1948 philosophy professor Melvin Rader was falsely accused of being a Communist conspirator.

During the cold war era, the federal government was providing substantial support for higher education through the GI Bill.

The student population at the University of Washington grew rapidly and a strong sense of community among the students grew, led by older, former soldiers.

The Cold War put a damper on this community.

Wild charges of communist subversion led several states to require state employees to take loyalty oaths.

In this repressed atmosphere, faculty were dismissed, students dropped out of school, and the free speech was restrained on the campuses.
Part Three:

Global Insecurities at War’s End
Financing the Future

- During WWII, the United States and Soviet Union had temporarily put aside their differences in a common fight.
- Divergent interests made a continued alliance unlikely.
- Fears of the return of depression led the United States to take a much more active international stance.
- The Soviet Union interpreted the aggressive American economic moves as a threat.
The Division of Europe

- Map: Divided Europe, p.815
- FDR’s realism allowed him to recognize that some kinds of spheres of influence were inevitable for the winning powers.
Part Four: The Policy of Containment
The Truman Doctrine

- While FDR favored diplomacy and compromise, Truman was committed to a get-tough policy with the Soviets.
- When civil war threatened the governments in Turkey and Greece, the United States warned of a communist coup and provided $400 million to defeat the rebels.
- The Truman Doctrine committed the United States to a policy of trying to contain Communism.
Cold War Policies

- Media: Overview: Major Cold War Policies
The Marshall Plan and the Berlin Crisis

- The Marshall Plan provided $13 billion to rebuild Europe.
- The plan had the long-term impact of revitalizing the European capitalist economy and driving a further wedge between the West and Soviet Union.
- The gap widened when the western zones of Germany merged.
- When the Soviets cut off land access to West Berlin, the United States airlifted supplies to the city.
NATO and Atomic Diplomacy

- The United States also created an alliance of anti-Soviet nations, NATO, and the Soviets responded with the Warsaw Pact.
- The East/West split seemed permanent.
- The American policy of containing Communism rested on the ability to stop its expansion by military means.
- After the Soviets developed nuclear weapons, both sides amassed lethal stockpiles. The U.S. and Soviets could not come up with a plan to control them. Within a few years both sides had a stockpile of hydrogen bombs.
Part Five: Cold War Liberalism
“To Err is Truman”

- The early years of the Truman presidency were plagued by protests by Americans tired of war-time sacrifices.
- An inability to bring troops home quickly or end rationing hurt Truman’s popularity. Inflation spread and strikes paralyzed the nation.
- Congress blocked Truman's plans for reconversion.
- In 1946, Republicans gained control of Congress and started to undo the New Deal. Over Truman’s veto, Republicans passed the Taft-Hartley bill that curtailed the power of labor.
The 1948 Election

- Going into the 1948 election the liberal community was divided.
- Liberals feuded with Truman over how to extend the New Deal and the extent of the Soviet threat.
- Henry Wallace challenged Truman by running on the Progressive ticket, a campaign effectively quashed by red-baiting.
- Truman repositioned himself to the left by warning voters that Republicans would make the United States “an economic colony of Wall Street.”
- He also offered a liberal legislative package that Congress defeated.
- The Democrats split again over civil rights when segregationists ran Strom Thurmond for president.
Truman’s Victory

- Map: The Election of 1948, p. 818
- Truman managed to hold on to the New Deal coalition and won re-election.
The Election of 1948

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Electoral Vote</th>
<th>Popular Vote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HARRY S. TRUMAN (Democrat)</td>
<td>303 (57)</td>
<td>24,105,812 (49.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas E. Dewey (Republican)</td>
<td>189 (36)</td>
<td>21,970,065 (45.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strom Thurmond (States’ Rights)</td>
<td>39 (7)</td>
<td>1,169,063 (2.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry A. Wallace (Progressive)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,157,172 (2.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other candidates</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>272,713 (.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Fair Deal

- **Media: Number of Federal Employees in Executive Branch**
- In 1949 he proposed a package of reforms, the Fair Deal.
- Truman won some gains in public housing, minimum wage and Social Security increases, but little else.
- Truman helped to define Cold War liberalism as promoting economic growth through expanded foreign trade and federal expenditures, chiefly defense.
Number of Employees in the Executive Branch, 1901-1955
Part Six:

The Cold War at Home
The National Security Act of 1947

- A climate of fear developed after the war that the United States was the target of or had already fallen prey to subversive influences.
- The Cold War triggered a massive reordering of governmental power.
- Established under the National Security Act of 1947, the Defense Department became a huge and powerful bureaucracy.
- The Department of Defense and the National Science Foundation pursued scientific research, especially related to physics.
- New agencies like the CIA fed off the fear of communism.
The Loyalty-Security Program

- Allegedly to combat subversive influences, Truman promoted a loyalty program.
- The Attorney General published a list of potentially subversive organizations.
- Many groups disbanded and prior membership in them destroyed individuals’ careers. A wide range of restrictions on alleged subversives passed Congress.
The Red Scare in Hollywood

- The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) launched investigations into Communist influence in Hollywood.
- A parade of friendly witnesses denounced Communists.
- Many people gave names of suspect former friends so that they themselves would be cleared and able to work again.
- A few witnesses (many blacklisted later) attacked HUAC and a handful went to prison for contempt of Congress.
Spy Cases

- Public anxieties were heightened when former State Department advisor Alger Hiss was accused of being a Communist spy.
- Richard Nixon pursued the charges.
- Hiss went to jail for perjury.
- Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed despite worldwide protests.
McCarthyism

- Sen. Joseph McCarthy caused a sensation when he charged that 200 Communists worked for the State Department.
- His lack of evidence did not stop him from striking a chord with many Americans.
- He played into fears that Communism was a demonic force and that eastern elites had successfully manipulated the public.
- McCarthyism attacked Jews, blacks, women’s organizations, and homosexuals. Effective use of the media made McCarthyism seem credible.
- McCarthy’s crusade was destroyed when he went on national TV and appeared deranged, making wild charges of Communist infiltration of the army.
Part Seven:

Cold War Culture
An Anxious Mood

- After World War II, millions of Americans achieved middle-class status.
- But prosperity did not dispel American anxiety over nuclear war and economic depression.
- Movies and plays reflected cold war anxieties and alienation as well as anti-communism.
The Family as Bulwark

- Media: U. S. Birth rate, 1930-1960
- The move to the suburbs, high levels of consumption, and even the rush towards marriage and parenthood illustrated these fears.
- The baby boom and high consumer spending changed the middle-class family.
U.S. Birth Rate, 1930-1980
Income and Consumer Spending

- To sustain support of larger families and high rates of consumer spending, a growing number of married, middle-class women sought employment.
Commentators bemoaned the destruction of the traditional family that they linked to the threat of Communism.

High-profile experts weighed in with popular books and articles about the dangers of women who abandoned their housewife roles.

The conservative trend was also evident in declining numbers of woman college graduates.
Military-Industrial Communities in the West

- The Cold War impacted the West more than other regions.
- New military-industrial communities arose, especially in California, and older communities also benefited from federal spending.
- To accommodate the burgeoning population, new highway systems were built that created housing sprawl, traffic congestion, air pollution and strains on local water supplies.
Zeal for Democracy

- The revitalization of patriotism during World War II continued after the return of peace.
- The American Way became a popular theme of public celebrations and patriotic messages spread through public education.
- Voices of protest arose but had little impact.
Part Eight:

End of the Democratic Era
The “Loss” of China

- In Asia, American foreign policy yielded mixed results.
- The United States achieved its greatest Asian success in Japan where a host of reforms brought an unprecedented degree of democracy and where they received valuable military bases.
- In China, Mao Zedong’s Communist revolution overthrew the corrupt, pro-American regime of Jiang Jeishi.
- The Truman Administration was saddled with the blame for having “lost” China.
The Geography of the Korean War

- Map: The Korean War, p. 831
The Korean War

- When North Koreans attempted a forced reunification of the peninsula, Truman called it an act of Soviet aggression.
- Smarting from McCarthyite attacks, Truman felt compelled to act.
- With the Soviets boycotting the UN, the Security Council authorized sending in troops.
- American forces, commanded by Douglas MacArthur, first pushed North Koreans back to their side of the dividing line and then went further north.
- Chinese troops pushed the UN forces back until a costly stalemate settled in.
The Price of National Security

- Criticized for bypassing Congress, Truman explained that his authority came from NSC-68, a National Security Council position paper that:
  - consolidated decision making
  - advocated a massive buildup of military power
- The war left Korea devastated and greatly expanded the containment principle far beyond Europe.
- The military stalemate left many Americans disillusioned with the promise of easy victories.
The Election of 1952

- The Korean War also effectively ruined Truman’s presidency, particularly after he fired General MacArthur.
- After Truman said he would not run for re-election, the Democratic Party turned to Adlai Stevenson who offered no solutions to the key problems.
- Dwight Eisenhower was the Republican candidate and ran a moderate campaign short on specifics.
- His running mate, Richard Nixon, waged a relentless attack on Stevenson.
- Eisenhower effectively used the peace issue, pledging to go to Korea to settle the war.
- Republicans won control of the White House and Congress.
Part Seven:

Conclusion
The Cold War

- Media: Chronology, p. 834
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Henry Luce forecasts the dawn of &quot;the American Century&quot;</td>
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<td>1944</td>
<td>G.I. Bill of Rights benefits World War II veterans</td>
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<td>International Monetary Fund and World Bank founded</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt dies in office, Harry S. Truman becomes president</td>
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<td></td>
<td>United Nations charter signed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>World War II ends</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Strike wave begins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Truman proposes program of economic reforms</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Employment Act creates Council of Economic Advisers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Churchill's Iron Curtain speech</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Atomic Energy Act establishes Atomic Energy Commission</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Republicans win control of Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Benjamin Spock publishes Baby and Child Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Americans for Democratic Action founded</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Truman Doctrine announced, Congress appropriates $400 million in aid for Greece and Turkey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Federal Employees Loyalty and Security Program established and attorney general's list of subversive organizations authorized</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marshall Plan announced</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Taft-Hartley Act restricts union activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National Security Act establishes Department of Defense, the National Security Council, and the Central Intelligence Agency</td>
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<td></td>
<td>House Un-American Activities Committee hearings in Hollywood</td>
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<td>1948</td>
<td>Smith-Mundt Act passed by Congress</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ferdinand Lundberg and Marynia Farnham publish Modern Woman. The Lost Sex</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State of Israel founded</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Berlin blockade begins</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Henry Wallace nominated for president on Progressive Party ticket</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Truman announces peacetime draft and desegregates U.S. armed forces and civil service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Truman wins election, Democrats sweep both houses of Congress</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>Truman announces Fair Deal</td>
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<td>North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) created</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Communists, led by Mao Zedong, take power in China</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Berlin blockade ends</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soviet Union explodes atomic bomb</td>
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<td>1951</td>
<td>Alger Hiss convicted of perjury</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senator Joseph McCarthy begins anti-Communist crusade</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China sign an alliance</td>
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<td>Adoption of NSC-68 consolidates presidential war powers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Korean War begins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Internal Security (McCarran) Act requires registration of Communist organizations and arrest of Communists during national emergencies</td>
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<td>1952</td>
<td>Truman dismisses General Douglas MacArthur</td>
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<td>Psychological Strategy Board created</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Armistice talks begin in Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Immigration and Nationality Act retains quota system, lifts ban on immigration of Asian and Pacific peoples, but bans &quot;subversives&quot; and homosexuals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>United States explodes first hydrogen bomb</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dwight D. Eisenhower wins presidency; Richard Nixon becomes vice president</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Julius and Ethel Rosenberg executed for atomic espionage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Armistice ends fighting in Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Warsaw Pact created</td>
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