



# Chapter Twenty-Six

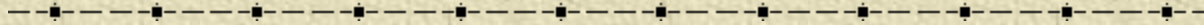
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## **The Cold War, 1945–1952**

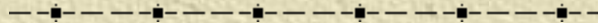
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Part One:



**Introduction**



# Chapter Focus Questions

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- ✦ 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:

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**University of Washington,  
Seattle: Students and Faculty  
Face the Cold War**

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# University of Washington, Seattle

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- ✦ 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 G.I. 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 members were dismissed, students dropped out of school, and the free speech was restrained on the campuses.



Part Three:

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**Global Insecurities at  
War's End**

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# Financing the Future

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- ✦ 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

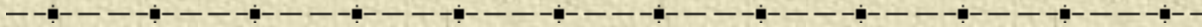
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## ✦ Map: Divided Europe

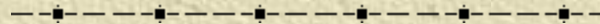
- ✦ FDR's realism allowed him to recognize that some kinds of spheres of influence were inevitable for the winning powers.



# Part Four:



# **The Policy of Containment**



# The Truman Doctrine

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- ✦ 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.

# The Marshall Plan and the Berlin Crisis

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- ✦ 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.

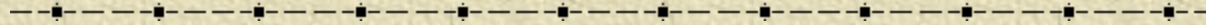
# NATO and Atomic Diplomacy

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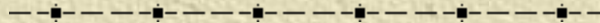
- ✦ The United States also created an alliance of anti-Soviet nations, NATO, and the Soviets responded with the Warsaw Pact.
- ✦ The East/West split seemed permanent.
- ✦ The American policy of containing communism rested on the ability to stop its expansion by military means.
- ✦ After the Soviets developed 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”

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- ✦ 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 re-conversion.
- ✦ 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

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- ✦ 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

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## ✦ Map: The Election of 1948

- ✦ Truman managed to hold on to the New Deal coalition and won re-election.



# The Fair Deal

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- ✦ Media: Number of Federal Employees in Executive Branch
- ✦ In 1949, Truman 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.



# Part Six:

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## **The Cold War at Home**

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# The National Security Act of 1947

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- ✦ 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

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- ✦ Allegedly to combat subversive influences, Truman promoted a loyalty program.
- ✦ The attorney general published a list of potentially subversive organizations.
- ✦ Many groups disbanded and previous membership in them destroyed individuals' careers. A wide range of restrictions on alleged subversives passed Congress.

# The Red Scare in Hollywood

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- ✦ 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

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- ✦ 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.

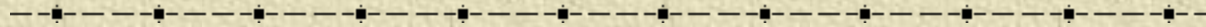
# McCarthyism

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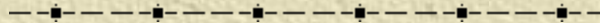
- ✦ Sen. Joseph McCarthy caused a sensation when he charged that 200 communists worked for the State Department.
- ✦ His lack of evidence did not stop him from striking a chord with many Americans.
- ✦ He played into fears that communism was a demonic force and that eastern elites had successfully manipulated 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

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- ✦ 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

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## ✦ Media: U. S. Birth rate, 1930–1960

- ✦ The move to the suburbs, high levels of consumption, and even the rush toward marriage and parenthood illustrated these fears.
- ✦ The baby boom and high consumer spending changed the middle-class family.

# Income and Consumer Spending

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- ✦ To sustain support of larger families and high rates of consumer spending, a growing number of married, middle-class women sought employment.

# The Family

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- ✦ 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

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- ✦ 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

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- ✦ 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:

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## **Stalemate for the Democrats**

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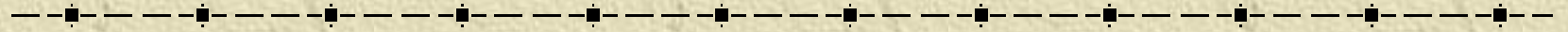
# The “Loss” of China

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- ✦ 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

# The Korean War

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- ✦ 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 U.N., 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 farther north.
- ✦ Chinese troops pushed the U.N. forces back until a costly stalemate settled in.

# The Price of National Security

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- ✦ 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.

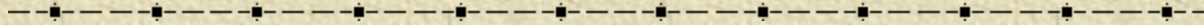
# “I like Ike”: The Election of 1952

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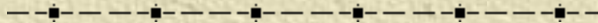
- ✦ The Korean War also effectively ruined Truman’s presidency, particularly after he fired General MacArthur.
- ✦ After Truman said he would not run for re-election, the Democratic Party turned to Adlai Stevenson, who offered no solutions to the key problems.
- ✦ Dwight Eisenhower was the Republican 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.



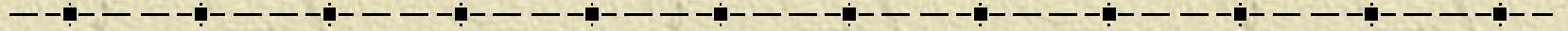
Part Nine:



**Conclusion**



# The Cold War



✠ Media: Chronology